Bengaluru Sunday, December 21, 2025 Pages 22 Vol 78 No 351 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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The Power of Good

Gill left out of T20 World Cup squad

Axar named vice-captain; Kishan, Rinku return

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A time to opt out?

In the first part of our year-end overview on how online worlds are transforming offline lives, we look at how privacy is becoming cool again

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Squares of cheer

At the Museum of Goa, a Christmas tree hand-crocheted by women across the state is bringing craft and community together

Travel
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Spirit of Yuletide

From Strasbourg to Vienna, explore some of the most charming and quaint Christmas markets in all of Europe

Food & Drink
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Southern spread

From achappams to marzipans and kulkuls, Christmas food in the south Indian states is a delectable affair

Quickly

Modi goes after Oppn over 'infiltration'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a broadside at the Opposition in poll-bound Assam, saying the latter was trying to derail the Centre's attempts to identify "infiltrators" in order to protect their vote bank. The issue of infiltration is a hot-button issue in the state.
Details on Page 3

SUV fatally knocks down senior citizen

A 60-year-old pedestrian was killed after being hit by a speeding Mahindra Thar on Old Airport Road late Friday night. The deceased, Jayapal, was a resident of JB Nagar. Police said a 25-year-old woman was driving the SUV at a high speed when it hit Jayapal who was crossing the road.
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Govt cyber agency flags WhatsApp risk

India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the cyber security agency of the Government of India, has flagged a sophisticated cyber threat targeting WhatsApp users, naming it the "GhostPairing" campaign. Rated as high severity, this attack abuses the platform's device-linking capability.
Details on Page 7

Cops: No plaint on pilot assaulting flyer

Delhi Police on Saturday said they have not received any formal complaint so far in connection with the alleged assault of a passenger by an off-duty Air India Express pilot at the city airport. On Friday, a passenger, Ankit Dewan, had alleged in a post on X that he was physically assaulted by Air India Express captain Virender Sejwal near the security area of Terminal 1.

Hate speech bill: BJP to approach Prez

The Karnataka BJP has decided to approach the President and also write to the Governor against the bill against hate speech passed by the Congress government. Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje alleged the government introduced the bill to silence those who speak against the party. "I have written to the Governor requesting not to approve the bill as it suppresses freedom of expression," she said.
Details on Page 5

Federalism, right to work at risk in job guarantee overhaul

Centre must ensure that the VB - G RAM G Bill guarantees work for all rural poor and corrects the minimum wage violations carried over from MGNREGA

SOWMYA SIVAKUMAR

At the heart of the debate over the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, or VB–G RAM G, versus the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are two key constitutional principles at stake: federalism and the right to livelihood as included in the right to life under Article 14. The core issues do not lie in the renaming of the now-repealed MGNREGA, as emphasised by Opposition leaders since the new Bill was tabled, but in something far more significant: the redesign of an economic development framework centred on the country's rural workforce.

The central vision of MGNREGA was to provide a measure of economic security to poor, landless and socially marginalised rural wage labour households, while simultaneously creating productive village-level assets through decentralised planning and participation. Without adequate safeguards and enabling provisions, VB–G RAM G risks turning India's already marginalised workforce into a reserve pool of disempowered labour, with the Centre controlling how, when and where they are deployed to fulfil its vision of Viksit Bharat. This could exacerbate, rather than reduce, regional disparities and inter-state friction.

Had it adhered to its stated objective of empowering the rural workforce through enhanced livelihood guarantee, the two key provisions of the new Bill would have looked very different. The first deals with wages (Section 10) and the second lays down the funding pattern (Section 22).

Normative allocation in VB–G RAM G Bill could threaten workers' access to guaranteed employment. In pic, villagers in Mysuru district participate in lake restoration work under the MGNREGA scheme. DH PHOTO

The SUNDAY STORY

Statutory minimum wages

Section 10 of VB- G RAM G mirrors Section 6(1) of MGNREGA, giving the Centre, rather than the states, the power to set wage rates. Constitutionally, this is the most violative section in both laws, disregarding workers' fundamental rights. The non-obstante clause, which overrides the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was introduced by the UPA government on the eve of tabling the MGNREG Bill. In 2010, rejecting the National Advisory Council's recommendations, then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh wrote back saying that "statutorily the wage rate under NREGA is delinked and independent of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act." Consequently, Clause 6(2), which notified the state agricultural minimum wages as the NREGA wages ceased to operate and 6(1) took effect—decoupling MGNREGA wages from minimum wages. Protests, letters from former Chief Justices of India and contempt of court proceedings were ignored.

MGNREGA wages have since created a new, unconstitutional 'floor' for millions of workers, a sub-subsistence wage below agricultural minimum wages. A 2025 report finds this to be the case in 13 major states. VB–G RAM G makes no attempt to correct this gross injustice.

For workers under MGNREGA, this effectively amounts to continued state-sanctioned exploitation. It violates multiple Supreme Court rulings that uphold that non-payment of minimum wages amounts to forced labour, prohibited under Article 23 of the Constitution. Even today, senior Congress leaders speak of "raising the NREGA wage" or "changing the methodology to protect it from inflation," yet we do not hear them advocate for bringing the MGNREGA (or now VB–G RAM G) wage back under the Minimum Wages Act (or the Code on Wages, 2019).

The significance of statutory minimum wages for rural employment guarantee scheme workers is still widely misunderstood. While International Labour Organization conventions and Supreme Court judgements stress that minimum wages set an inviolable legal floor, Centre-notified MGNREGA wages function as a "maximum", payable only for full output. Consequently, workers often earn less than even these already low rates. Several reports show that low wages drive corruption and disinterest in MGNREGA.

▸ Rural employment, Page 2

Disaster management: Action fails to match risks

Despite policies and roadmaps, recurring disasters in Karnataka reveal gaps in planning, funding and local mitigation

SHREE D N & VITTAL SHASTRI
BENGALURU/ KALABURAGI, DHNS

Forty-four-year-old Hanumant Shahabad, a farm labourer from Mandarwad in Jewargi taluk, relocates with his family every time the water released from reservoirs in Maharashtra swells the Bhima river. They stay with relatives in Kalaburagi or in rented accommodations, returning only after the waters recede.

Hanumant is not alone. Nearly 200 households in Mandarwad endure sleepless nights during the monsoon watching river levels rise and waiting for evacuation. In response, the government constructed around 100 small houses at a rehabilitation site nearby but the houses lack basic amenities such as proper roads, electricity and drinking water. More importantly, villagers say they are too small to store food grains and fodder, and accommodate cattle. As a result, only 15 are occupied, while the rest have fallen into poor condition.

"We need a permanent solution, new homes in safer locations," says Anusuya, a resident of Kobal village in Jewargi taluk.

The situation is no different in Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Gadag, Dharwad, Raichur and other parts of the region affected by flooding caused in the Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Bhima, Doni and other tributaries of the Krishna.

Fire and Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force personnel evacuate residents of Kadabur village in Kalaburagi district to safer locations after flooding of the Bhima River. DH PHOTO/ TAJUDDIN AZAD

INSIGHT

Similar flooding occurs in central Karnataka, where Kumbaragundi and surrounding areas along the Tunga river in Shivamogga district get inundated when large volumes of water are released from the Tunga dam at Gajanur. Bhadravathi town faces similar flooding due to releases from the Bhadra Dam.

Floods are the most visible natural disasters in Karnataka. But they are only part of a wider spectrum of disasters, visible and invisible, that plague the state. Despite decades of experience with recurrent flooding, official responses have largely remained reactive, focused on evacuation, compensation and temporary shelters, rather than on preventive planning and durable solutions that reduce risk over the long term.

In August 2025, the government released the Karnataka State Disaster Risk Reduction (KSDRR) Road Map 2025–2030, a forward-looking, action-oriented policy framework developed by the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) with technical support from UNICEF, aimed at making Karnataka disaster-resilient by 2030. The document outlines action items for 20 government departments.

On paper, the document is ambitious. It emphasises mitigation, preparedness, climate adaptation and inter-departmental coordination. However, the timing is a major concern. According to a recent Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, the disaster risk reduction policy itself was approved in 2020, nearly 12 years after the KSDMA was constituted. The preparation of roadmap to implement that policy took another five years.

"The roadmap has taken so much time that parts of the policy risk becoming outdated even before full implementation," says a disaster management expert.

The document, along with robust disaster-response steps, highlights many mitigation techniques. However, experts believe it could have been better.

Even today, large parts of north Karnataka remain trapped in a cycle of floods, crop loss and displacement.

▸ Natural disasters, Page 2

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RECURRING DROUGHT

80% of the state's geographical area is prone to drought

The State was affected by drought for about 15 years between 2001 and 2022

RISING FLOODS AND LIGHTNING RISE

The state experienced successive floods from 2018 to 2022 affecting at least 10 districts every year

Between 2005 and 2020, nearly 11 years were declared as heavy rain or flood affected

Rapid urbanisation-driven land-use modifications have been a key cause of these floods

Between 2011 and 2021, lightning strikes in Karnataka caused 812 deaths and significant damage to infrastructure

LANDSLIDES HIT 15% AREA

Districts along the Western Ghats have been experiencing a spurt in landslides since 2016

Landslides affect at least 15% of the total land area of Karnataka

Between 2011-2021, landslides hit parts of the state every year

HEATWAVE

15 districts are vulnerable to heatwaves

The state is highly vulnerable to heatwaves, from March to June

CYCLONE

24% of the area is prone to heavy winds and cyclone

The state's coastline was affected by a series of cyclones Ockhi (2017), Kyarr and Maha (2019) and Tauktae (2021)

15 dists in the moderate risk zone from cyclones

The coastal line faces sea-erosion also

Mitigation over response

Natural disasters

from Page 1

In Belagavi district alone, more than 200 villages are affected by floods during the monsoon. Waters of the Krishna spread across the villages and towns along its course after inflows from Maharashtra exceed 3.50 lakh cusec. This year, 20 villages were fully submerged, and 190 were partially affected.

To manage the risk, the district administrations in Kolhapur and Sangli share real-time data on downstream water releases with Belagavi district officials during the monsoon. This coordination allows for calibrated discharges from the Hippargi barrage and the Almatti dam. Yet, despite these arrangements, flooding continues year after year and so does displacement.

Kalaburagi district illustrates the cumulative toll of such recurring extremes. A GI-tagged tur-growing region, it has faced both droughts and floods almost every year since 2000. Over the past three years, farmers have received a record Rs 2,171 crore in input subsidies and crop insurance payouts. Even so, these measures have failed to offset the long-term damage caused by repeated natural disasters.

"We have separate teams monitoring rainfall in Maharashtra and water releases from the Ujjani dam through dedicated teams and alert residents along the Bhima river accordingly," says Afzalpur tahsildar Sanjeevkumar Dasar. "But increasing storage capacity in existing reservoirs is a policy decision that requires inter-state agreement."

The scale of loss remains staggering. This year, heavy rainfall and flooding damaged crops on 3.24 lakh hectares of the district's more than nine lakh hectares under cultivation. Agricultural experts stress the need for structural changes — multi-cropping, annual crop rotation and risk-spreading practices — to reduce farmers' vulnerability.

> Disaster management at the gram panchayat level depends on local NGOs for relief. Disaster risk is evolving, with emerging threats such as heatwaves. The policy document is dynamic and will continue to keep pace with emerging disaster risks and evolving threats.
>
> **Revenue Minister's office**

For many cultivators, however, survival has become the priority. "I have the responsibility of raising my three young children, and this year's crop loss has pushed us deeper into debt," says Gayatri Jadhav, a Lambani woman from Kadadur village in Kalagi taluk. "We borrow from banks and private lenders to pay for leased land. Frequent droughts and floods have made farming unviable."

Compensation, farmers say, offers only temporary relief. Each year, they must navigate bureaucratic processes to access it, even as the underlying risks remain unchanged.

The KSDRR roadmap and policy acknowledge these losses, proposing crop insurance, improved irrigation coverage and sustainable water and crop management. Whether these commitments will move beyond documentation and translate into on-ground implementation remains an open question — one that farmers in Karnataka's most vulnerable regions can no longer afford to wait to have answered.

Dealing with drought

The lack of adequate water storage infrastructure is a fundamental weakness in north Karnataka's disaster preparedness. Experts point out that the region has limited capacity to store water through dams, barrages and lakes, leaving it vulnerable to both floods during the monsoon and drought in summer.

Across Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Bidar districts, all 11 existing dams together have a storage capacity of just 24.721 tmc. Increasing this capacity, experts say, could significantly expand irrigation coverage and reduce chronic drought conditions.

The Bhima river illustrates the imbalance. Originating in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, the river flows for about 861 km through Karnataka and parts of Telangana before joining the Krishna in Raichur district. Farmer leaders argue that expanding the storage capacity of existing barrages and rejuvenating lakes, for which tenders have already been floated, would allow the state utilise more water. They estimate that this could bring over two lakh hectares of farmland under irrigation and ensure drinking water supply to several villages and towns during the summer.

The inter-state water sharing further complicates the picture. The Justice R S Bachawat Commission, in 1976, allocated 300 tmc ft of Bhima water to Maharashtra, 45.3 tmc ft to Karnataka and 5.1 tmc ft to Andhra Pradesh, out of a total of 351 tmc ft. Farmer leaders in Karnataka claim that Maharashtra utilises 140 tmcft, water beyond its allocation, limiting downstream availability. While such assertions are contested and require legal and technical scrutiny, the outcome on the ground is evident: The Bhima river is drying up because Maharashtra is not releasing its share of 15 tmc of water, resulting in severe drinking water scarcity and drought every summer.

Managing this seasonal paradox — excess water during the monsoon and scarcity in summer — remains one of the region's biggest challenges.

The KSDRR roadmap acknowledges water scarcity and calls for sustainable water management and conservation. But it remains silent on legal remedies, inter-state negotiations and the expansion of storage infrastructure.

One such unresolved long-term proposal is the balancing reservoir at Navali in Kanakagiri taluk of Koppal district, intended to locally store surplus water. Discussions on the project began 11 years ago. While the Congress government initially committed to it, a detailed project report costing Rs 13,040 crore was prepared three years ago under the BJP government. Since then, the project has remained in cold storage. The roadmap is silent on such long-term projects as well.

A clarification issued by the office of Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda states that the State government, through the Water Resources Department, has constituted the State Dam Safety Authority and the State Committee on Dam Safety. It adds that regular consultations on preparedness and data sharing are held ahead of the south-west monsoon with neighbouring states including Maharashtra, Kerala and Telangana.

The clarification further notes that dedicated WhatsApp communication groups have been created for the Krishna and Tungabhadra river basins, comprising officials from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. These groups share real-time information on reservoir water levels, inflows and outflows, enabling timely coordination and improved downstream flood preparedness.

Extreme heat and cold

Kalyana Karnataka is increasingly witnessing sweltering heat and severe cold every year. In 2023, Bidar recorded a low of 5.5 degrees Celsius, the coldest in a decade. Recently, for the first time, the state issued a coldwave alert in the region, a step towards acknowledging cold as a disaster risk. Yet the KSDRR roadmap does not explicitly recognise coldwaves as a disaster relevant to the state, nor does it outline measures to reduce their impact.

"Coldwaves cannot be prevented, but their impact can be significantly reduced through better infrastructure and early-warning systems," says a disaster management expert.

If winters are severe, summers are unforgiving. Temperatures routinely climb to 45 degrees Celsius in districts such as Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur and Ballari, leaving residents with little respite. All districts in the region experience heatwaves during April and May, with temperatures crossing 44 degrees Celsius in Yadgir, Raichur and Bidar districts.

The heat is so intense that water flowing from taps turns hot by 10 am. Each year, the government responds by advancing office hours to 8 am–1.30 pm in nine heatwave-affected districts, while health officials advise people to stay indoors between noon and 3 pm to prevent heat-related illnesses, including heatstroke.

"The extreme temperatures are linked to the region's flat terrain and limestone deposits, which absorb and radiate heat," explains Basavaraj Biradar, technical officer at the Bidar Agriculture Research Station and the India Meteorological Department.

The human costs are evident. Residents report blisters on their heads and bodies, dehydration and chronic fatigue. The economic impacts are equally severe. Livestock losses mount, the dairy sector suffers, and productivity declines as prolonged heat takes a physical and mental toll on people.

Local administrations have responded with immediate relief measures — shade structures at busy intersections and Amrut Neralu huts at several locations that provide drinking water and temporary respite. However, these are short-term measures.

What is missing, experts say, is a region-wide strategy to reduce heat exposure itself: expanding green cover through parks and tree plantations, promoting drought-resistant vegetation and improving water storage systems.

In agriculture, heat-tolerant crop varieties, agroforestry, soil moisture conservation, a shift to less water-intensive crops and innovations such as agrivoltaics --- solar panels installed above farmland that provide both electricity and shade --- can help mitigate heat when well planned.

While the roadmap speaks of heat-resistant infrastructure and solar energy in urban areas, it offers little by way of a clear, scalable mitigation plan for rural and agrarian regions like Kalyana Karnataka, where exposure is highest and coping capacity is weakest.

Risks from the sea

With a 320-km-long coastline, the state faces persistent coastal risks. The state's disaster management policy and roadmap recognise sea erosion as a disaster and allocate funds to address it. However, the roadmap does not mention how those funds will be utilised.

In Mangaluru, the risks are immediate and recurrent. Low-lying areas around Kottara Chowki are routinely flooded when high tides prevent stormwater drains from discharging into the sea, a problem that intensifies during heavy rainfall.

Babloo Chaudhary, assistant professor of civil engineering at NITK Surathkal, who has worked extensively on disaster mitigation, including tsunamis and landslides, notes that disaster mitigation efforts have not prioritised community-level protection. While a centrally funded project has strengthened the rubble-mound breakwater at New Mangalore Port, such measures do little to address routine flooding in surrounding areas.

Equally concerning is the lack of robust early-warning systems for hazards such as landslides, which frequently occur in the coastal belt and the Western Ghats during the monsoon. At NITK, Chaudhary's team is developing a multi-level landslide early-warning system at the laboratory stage, featuring on-site sirens, alerts to local authorities and potential mobile notifications using GPS and rainfall thresholds. However, the system requires large datasets, sensors, substantial funding and government adoption for real-world deployment.

While the government roadmap refers to mobile-based early-warning messaging, it provides little clarity on implementation, maintenance or localisation. This gap matters because disaster risks and effects are highly localised, and so are mitigation strategies.

In Dakshina Kannada, for example, the Phalguni river frequently floods agricultural fields and residential areas in Adyapadi, causing major disruption. In response, a recent initiative by the Vana Charitable Trust, in collaboration with the Syngene Biocon Foundation, the Centre for Advanced Learning and government departments, has launched a mangrove restoration project along the Nethravathi riverbank in Mangaluru. The project aims to rehabilitate 54 acres of mangroves over five years to protect the coastline, using nature-based solutions to buffer floods and stabilise the coastline.

In 2021, the state trained around 3,400 volunteers, now known as Apadmitras, in disaster management concepts and basic lifesaving techniques. Experts, however, have criticised the government for failing to equip these volunteers with protective gear, limiting their effectiveness during emergencies.

A trained volunteer from Hassan, who spoke to *DH*, said that despite these constraints, the training remains valuable. "We do whatever we can before the State Disaster Response Force and the National Disaster Response Force battalions arrive when a calamity strikes," the volunteer said.

The government has since expanded the programme by training Yuva Apadmitras, young volunteers drawn from the NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides, to strengthen first-response capacity at the local level.

In its response, the Revenue Minister's office stated that disaster management at the gram panchayat level depends significantly on local NGOs for relief and response. It added that disaster risk is evolving, with emerging threats such as heatwaves and that the policy framework is dynamic and intended to adapt to new and emerging risks over time.

Ultimately, effective disaster management in Karnataka demands localised, well-funded and scalable strategies that address immediate risks while building long-term climate resilience.

(With inputs from Harsha and Naina J A in Mangaluru, Nrupathunga S K in Davangere and Raju Gavali in Belagavi)

NATURE STRIKES, SYSTEM FAILS

Karnataka is one of the **most disaster-prone states** in the country due to its geo-environmental diversity

The state is **highly prone** to droughts, floods and landslides, and also cyclones and lightning

Natural disaster risks are compounded by changes in demography, unplanned urbanisation and development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change and geological hazards

Between 2015 and 2021, the state has suffered a cumulative loss of Rs 1.22 lakh crore due to natural disasters

Execution delays hamper disaster response

- The Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) was constituted in May 2008. However, the State Disaster Management Policy was released only in 2020
- While the advisory committee of experts was constituted after 11 years, the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) were formally notified after 12 years
- Both the KSDMA and State Disaster Response Force units face inadequate infrastructure, staffing, equipment and training
- Most local authorities, hospitals and schools in the state have not prepared disaster management plans
- Except for State DM Plan 2019-20 and SDM Policy 2020, action plans are not available in local languages, limiting ground-level implementation
- State and district emergency operation centres are poorly equipped
- The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre suffers from flawed data and forecasting due to faulty equipment, poor contract management, and missing models and sensors

347 people have lost lives in calamities (2018 and 2023)

Natural disaster	Total estimated loss (Rs crore)	Loss of lives	
		Human	Livestock
Drought	93,641	-	-
Flood and landslide	75,686	341	6,327
Cyclone	209	6	2
Total	1,69,537	347	6,329

Karnataka loses Rs 1.2 lakh crore to disasters (2015–2021)

Type of loss	Area	Estimated loss (Rs Cr)
Crop loss (In Ha) (Agriculture, horticulture, plantation, sericulture)	504.82	1,16,181
House damage	2.4 lakh	11,324
Damage to roads (SH, MDRs, Urban Roads and rural roads in km)	1.1 lakh	17,296
Damage to bridges	11,342	2,709
Damage to govt buildings	34,872	1,537

More districts affected by floods over the years

93% of funds utilised between 2017 & 2023

Year	NDRF (In Rs crore)	SDRF+ SDMF		Total release (includes addl state grants)	Expenditure	Percentage of utilisation
		Centre	State			
2017-18	913	229	76	2,491	2,412	97
2018-19	960	288	32	1,680	1,207	72
2019-20	2,744	204	132	5,015	4,900	98
2020-21	578	790	264	2,240	2,238	100
2021-22	1734	790	264	5,215	5,004	96
2022-23	940	664	221	3,005	2,939	95
Total	7,869	2,965	989	19,645	18,670	93

**Disaster response is funded through State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) (75% from Centre and 25% from state) with National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) supplements during severe disasters. The grant, now called the State Disaster Risk Management Fund, includes SDRF and State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) allocated in 80:20 ratio

Lack of transparency in fund use

A CAG audit has pointed out poor maintenance of cashbooks, receipts, release orders, reconciliation statements and balance confirmation certificates in the Revenue Department, raising doubts about the accuracy of its receipts and expenditures.

- Disaster-wise or component-wise details of fund release is not maintained in many taluks
- Tahsildars should transact only through treasury Personal Deposit Accounts (PDAs), but most taluks have not fully transitioned to this system
- The 2020-21 CAG audit found that the state released Rs 184 crore under SDMF but later withheld it, leaving agencies unfunded
- In 2022-23, Rs 221 crore was due under SDMF, but non-receipt from the Centre (Rs 166 crore) led the state to withhold its share (Rs 55 crore), preventing mitigative activities
- The audit observed discrepancies between district fund release records and receipts reported by taluk offices

(Sources: State Disaster Management Plan 2022-23, CAG report, media reports) Compiled by Divyashri Mudakavi DH Graphics: Ramu Mastaiah

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Rural employment, from Page 1

VB–G RAM G could affect states' autonomy and inclusive growth

Gap between notified daily wage rate and average wage paid in select states

State	Notified wage rate	Average wage paid
Rajasthan	Rs 266	211
Telangana	300	245
Tamil Nadu	319	276
AP	300	258
Gujarat	280	252
Chhattisgarh	243	227
Karnataka	349	333

*Average wage calculated over April 2024 and January 2025, Sources: MGNREGA Dashboard, Ministry of Rural Development as accessed on Jan 22, 2025, PRS

More broadly, real wages in India have stagnated over the past decade. It is therefore hard to comprehend how keeping wages depressed under VB–G RAM G will help achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Greater burden on states

The second major shift is the drastic change in the funding pattern under VB–G RAM G. Previously, total expenditure was shared 90:10 (Centre:States), with the Centre covering 100% of labour and administrative costs and 75% of material costs, and the remaining borne by the states. Under the new Bill, this is recalibrated to 60:40 for 18 states and one UT with legislature (excluding North-East and Himalayan states, and UTs without legislature). Now these 19 states/UT will presumably have to bear 40% under each of these heads.

Based on 2024-25 MGNREGA expenditure data, a rough estimate of the annual additional burden on these 19 states/UT works out to be Rs 31,513 crore. However, the actual figure could differ for two reasons: first, the expenditures provided only 50.24 days of work on average in 2024-25, half the guaranteed number of days; second, the final amount will depend on the Centre's normative allocations for each state and the scheme's coverage.

The financial memorandum to the Bill indicates that states and the UT would have to bear Rs 55,000 crore of the programme's estimated annual cost of Rs 1.51 lakh crore, with the Centre covering Rs 95,600 crore. Any expenditure beyond the normative allocations will also fall on the states.

Work uncertain

Another major change is the shift from demand-based labour budgeting by states under MGNREGA to normative allocations. The Centre will now decide, "based on objective parameters" set by bureaucrats, state-specific quotas from the predetermined Rs 1.51 lakh crore. It will also determine when, in which state, and in which region within a state, the scheme is notified. This effectively strips the programme of its universal guarantee, leaving rural households at the mercy of bureaucratic discretion. Unlike before, not every rural labourer seeking work is assured employment — they must be in the right state, region and time.

It is important to note that not all states will be affected equally. A quiet overhaul of MGNREGA has been in the works for some time. The Amarjeet Sinha Committee, tasked with reviewing MGNREGA and studying states' expenditure trends and inter-state variations, submitted its report to the Centre in 2023 — but it has never been made public.

Sources suggest that the committee recommended using poverty indicators to determine where the scheme should be intensified and putting 'alternatives' in place for richer states with high usage.

Viewed alongside the new funding pattern, higher allocations to poorer states, while desirable, would also mean a greater fiscal burden, as they must contribute their 40% share. This self-defeating aspect of VB–G RAM G, which undermines the goal of reducing regional disparities, could have stemmed from misplaced fiscal conservatism. Additionally, the shift from a demand-driven to a data-driven process could leave many needy households behind, even in so-called high-to-mid wealth states.

More broadly, the funding debate touches the core of cooperative federalism. Both MGNREGA and now VB–G RAM G are centrally sponsored schemes (CSSs), which have long been a contested area in Centre-State fiscal relations. The XV Finance Commission has cautioned that such discretionary, cost-sharing schemes can impose burdensome requirements, especially on states with lower fiscal and institutional capacity and in that sense, "probably regressive." It recommends that CSSs "should be flexible enough to allow States to adapt and innovate. Top-down mandates and strictures on programme implementation are the antithesis of an open-source model."

VB–G RAM G clearly ignores this advice. Ironically, if the Bill aims to address inter-state disparities, it has done so without consulting the states.

(Soumya Sivakumar is an independent writer)

In Assam, Modi goes after Oppn over 'infiltration'

Says correcting 'sins' committed by Cong in Northeast

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a broadside at the Opposition in poll-bound Assam, saying the latter was trying to derail the Centre's attempts to identify "infiltrators" in order to protect their vote bank.

The issue of infiltration is a hot-button issue in the state ruled by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, whose government has launched eviction drives against alleged "illegal settlers" in forests and government land. The foreigners issue is also one of the main poll planks of the BJP in Assam, where elections are due in March-April.

"The Centre has taken strict measures to stop infiltration, with identification processes underway to remove illegal infiltrators," Modi said after inaugurating the new terminal of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBI) at Borjhar in Guwahati.

"But the Opposition and their alliance have openly adopted anti-national agendas, even as the Supreme Court has spoken about removing infiltrators," Modi said.

"These parties are issuing statements in defence of infiltrators, and their lawyers are pleading in court to settle them. When the Election Commission is conducting the SIR process to ensure fair elections, these groups are opposing it," Modi said.

The LGBI airport is one of the eight airports being operated by the Adani Group in the country.

Modi alleged that during post-Independence decades, the Congress had given a free hand to infiltrators in Assam and Bengal for vote bank politics.

"Infiltrators occupied our forests, our land and resources. As a result, identity and safety of Assam was at stake. In Assam, the Himanta Biswa Sarma government is clearing our forests and lands from the infiltrators," he said.

"Such people will not protect the interests of Assamese brothers and sisters, and will allow others to occupy their land and forests. Their anti-national mindset could recreate the violence and unrest of earlier times," Modi said.

The PM also charged that Congress government in the past neglected the development of Assam and the Northeast, which led to alienation and conflicts.

▸ Modi, Page 4B

> The Opposition and their alliance have openly adopted anti-national agendas, even as the Supreme Court has spoken about removing infiltrators. These parties are issuing statements in defence of infiltrators, and their lawyers are pleading in court to settle them. When the Election Commission is conducting the SIR process to ensure fair elections, these groups are opposing it.
>
> **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

PM Narendra Modi addresses a gathering during the inauguration of a new terminal of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati on Saturday. PTI

Modi targets Didi over SIR

PM Modi on Saturday called for the end of what he called the 'Maha Jungle Raj' of the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. Modi accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party of opposing the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls of the state for protecting 'infiltrators'. Page 7

10-km nightmare: B'luru stuck in long traffic jams

Veerannapalya, Gokaldas junctions most congested

DH EXCLUSIVE

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

THE TOP 5 CHOKE POINTS

According to the latest ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management) report, the city's traffic is currently split between two contributors: massive vehicle inflow and ongoing infrastructure projects.

Rank	AM Peak (8 am - 12 pm)	PM Peak (5 pm - 9 pm)
1	Gokaldas Images Jn **(9.9 km)**	Veerannapalya Jn **(15.8 km)**
2	Hope Farm Jn **(9.4 km)**	Hope Farm Jn **(12.7 km)**
3	Doddenakundi **(8.8 km)**	Goraguntepalya Jn **(12.5 km)**
4	Goraguntepalya Jn **(8.4 km)**	Gokaldas Images Jn **(10.3 km)**
5	Kundanahalli Gate Jn **(8.4 km)**	Silk Board Jn **(9.2 km)**

Traffic congestion at key junctions in Bengaluru continues to be a headache for both commuters and police, especially during peak hours, with some of the intersections witnessing queues extending more than 10 km.

The city's busiest traffic corridors are struggling to cope with ever-increasing vehicle inflow, worsened by ongoing construction projects, including metro work and infrastructure upgrades.

According to latest traffic data, Gokaldas Images Junction and Veerannapalya are the city's worst congestion hotspots. In the mornings (8 am to 12 pm), Gokaldas Images Junction in North Bengaluru sees traffic queues reaching 9.9 km. In the evenings (5 pm to 9 pm), Veerannapalya Junction near BEL tops the list with a massive 15.8 km congestion on an average.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy explained to *DH* that the situation was exacerbated by the metro construction, which has slowed down traffic even further. "The underpass work at Kundanahalli Gate is still not complete and this has led to significant congestion in the mornings," said Reddy.

Traffic at Goraguntepalya Junction and Kundanahalli Gate Junction is particularly problematic due to metro construction and infrastructure work. The situation is dire at Goraguntepalya because vehicles from 20 districts converge on this junction.

The JCP (Traffic) highlighted that while weekends see families out in full force, there is a midweek "peak" driven by corporate work-from-office mandates. "Tuesday and Wednesday are the heaviest for peak hour traffic," he noted.

"With many employees taking Monday or Friday offs for long weekends, the midweek period sees the maximum convergence of the city's workforce on the roads."

▸ Traffic, Page 4B

High command will call us to Delhi: DKS on tussle with Siddu

BENGALURU, DHNS

Not losing his cool over the repeated statements by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on power sharing, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar on Saturday said the high command has told the two leaders that they will be called to Delhi at an "appropriate time" to discuss the thorny issue.

"Our high command leaders have told something to both the CM and me. They said they will call us at the appropriate time. Then both of us will go to Delhi," Shivakumar told reporters, adding that there is no need for him to visit Delhi secretly.

When asked about reports that both leaders would be invited to Delhi after the Belagavi session, he said: "If that is the case, we will inform you too. Nothing will be done without informing you. I don't need to visit Delhi secretly."

▸ DKS, Page 4B

> Our high command leaders have told something to both the CM and me. They said they will call us at the appropriate time. Then both of us will go to Delhi.
>
> **D K Shivakumar, DyCM**

Blessings from Nagasadhus

A group of Nagasadhus visited the residence of Shivakumar on Saturday. "They came home looking for me and blessed me. How can I refuse? Since we are in politics, we need saints, swamijis, elders, and all kinds of people. Our government is running the religious endowments department. We are providing assistance to all religious centres, including waqf and church."

7 jumbos dead as Rajdhani Exp rams herd in Assam

GUWAHATI, DHNS

At least seven wild elephants died after being hit by the New Delhi-bound Rajdhani Express near Kampur in Assam's Hojai district in the early hours of Saturday, which also led to the derailment of five coaches and the engine.

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) officials said the incident took place around 2.17 am about 126 km east of Guwahati. The loco pilot applied emergency brakes after spotting the herd but could not prevent the train from crashing into the elephants. There was no injury to passengers of the Sairang (Mizoram)-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, NFR said.

The NFR said at least nine trains had to be cancelled and a few others short terminated following the tragedy. Senior railway officials rushed to the spot to restore normal train movement.

67 elephants died in train collisions in Assam between 2000 and 2023

Seven elephants were killed after a herd was struck by the Rajdhani Express. PTI

Deaths on tracks

Death of wild elephants after being struck by trains, particularly during winter, at several stretches in Assam and neighbouring North Bengal has become a cause for concern.

At least 67 elephants have died due to such mishaps involving trains in Assam between 2000 and 2023, according a survey by the Wildlife Institute of India.

▸ Jumbo, Page 4B

NEW MARKET P 4B

K'taka's GI-tagged lemon headed for Oman

Kagzi lemon, the GI-tagged citrus variety produced in Karnataka's Vijayapura, is set to enter the Oman market. A shipment of three metric tonnes of the fruit, known for its thin rind and high juice content, was sent to Muscat, days after India and Oman signed a free-trade pact.

CBI RAIDS P 7

Lt Col arrested for taking bribe from B'luru firm

The CBI on Saturday arrested Lt Col Deepak Kumar Sharma, posted in the Department of Defence Production under the Defence Ministry, for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 3 lakh from a Bengaluru-based company. He took bribes for providing undue favours, the agency said.

Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 1000 per sq. mtr.

Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 23.12.2025
Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 03.01.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST

The Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, announces the e-Auction of a Commercial Site (Bulk Land). The auction / sale of the site is conducted in accordance with the Bangalore Development Authority's Disposal of Corner Sites and Commercial Sites Rules, 1984. The site is auctioned on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** BASIS.

Date of commencement of Live Bidding: 05.01.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 06.01.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

Sl. No.	Commercial Plot No.	Approximate area Acre	Guntas	Area in Sqm.	North	South	East	West	Rate per Sq. Mtrs.	Contact No.
1	CS-05 & CS-06	52	25	2,12,966	Kondaspura Village Road	80 Ft. Road	Hosakote-Whitefield Road	Private Property	76,500/-	8105864769
2	CS-1A	2	19.21	10037.17	15 mtr. Road	Kondaspura Tank	Lake Bund Road	Private Property	76,500/-	
3	CS-1B	1	31.09	7192.58	Kondaspura Lake	Restricted Award of Sy. No. 01	Lake Bund Road	Private Property	76,500/-	

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR e-AUCTION

1. The auction purchaser should be a Citizen of India.
2. EMD amount is fixed at for **Sl. No.1: Rs. 25.00 Crore, Sl. No.2: Rs. 2.00 Crore & Sl. No.3: Rs. 1.00 Crore** per site and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of E-Auction portal.
3. Advice letters will be sent by e-mail to successful bidders (Highest bidders) to remit 25% of the total cost after deducting EMD amount and the remaining should be remitted **on or before 12.01.2026, 23.59.00 hrs.** Remittance challans should be submitted to Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department, D Block 2nd Floor Room number 308. In case of failure to remit 25% within stipulated time, EMD shall be forfeited.
   Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Krupa West, Bengaluru-560020.
   Savings Account Name:- The Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.
   Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014
   IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828
   Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT
   Bidders shall pay EMD & 25% from their own bank account only.
4. Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary/Attested by Embassy Office in case of N.R.I.). NRI's interested in participating in the e-auction may do so by uploading self attested certificates. Successful bidders can submit certification issued by Indian Embassy later.
5. Successful bidders after remitting 25% of the final bid amount should pay the balance 75% amount within 45 days of receiving the allotment letter from BDA.
6. EMD amount of **Sl. No.1: Rs. 25.00 Crore, Sl. No.2: Rs. 2.00 Crore & Sl. No.3: Rs. 1.00 Crore** of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account within one month
7. **For more general terms and conditions visit our website: https://bdakarnataka.in**
8. **There should be a minimum of 2 bidders with minimum 10% increase on the base price for the e-auction sites. Single Bidder will be rejected.**
9. During bidding, if there is any duplication of Nick names for the same site, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.
10. E-auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website **https://bdakarnataka.in** For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: 080-46010000 & 080-68948777.
11. Bidders are required to download the prescribed model signature format (in which applicant's name and father's name in Kannada & English Language) and Contact Information format from the website **https://bdakarnataka.in ,** fill in the details and upload it on the website.
12. Joint Purchasers of the Site shall specify joint name in the Format provided and jointly upload their Aadhar card, PAN card, Marriage Certificate, Passport or any other Government issued documents in the e-Auction portal. Later requests for Joint registration will be rejected.
13. The auctioned Sites will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the location of the site, Road width etc., before bidding. Sites allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.
14. Bidders participating in E-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.
15. Regarding the e-Auction, Bidders should contact the Authority directly and should not contact any middle men.
16. BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by the successful bidder without assigning any reasons.

BIDDERS HAVE TO READ ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE BIDDING AND SHALL PARTICIPATE ACCORDINGLY.

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

For location of sites and other details, log on to https://bdakarnataka.in
BDA Commericial site related Queries 080-23368435 / 23368036 and KPPP technical issues contact 080-46010000 / 68948777

No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-15/2025-26 Date: 19.12.2025

Sd/- Engineer Member

TOXIC TENTS Doctors warn of spurious drugs as illegal clinics shift locations

Quack 'herbal' cures leave a trail of organ damage

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR & PUSHKAR V
BENGALURU, DHNS

For years, they were a common sight: brightly coloured roadside tents promising 'guaranteed cures' for sexual health and mental stress, strategically pitched near bus stands and busy junctions. Often targeting individuals with stigma surrounding sexual health and fear of judgment from society, these tents have vanished from the city's main arteries, only to resurface in the shadows of interior neighbourhoods and highway stretches.

The sudden exodus follows a high-profile fraud case that sent shockwaves through the city. A software engineer, desperate to resolve sexual health concerns post-marriage, was allegedly swindled of Rs 48 lakh by a quack operating out of a makeshift tent near Kengeri. The victim was not just drained of his life savings and forced into debt, but also left with severe kidney damage, proving that so-called "herbal" concoctions sold at these unregulated centres are toxic.

Police crackdown

The Bengaluru Police Department has since launched a massive drive to clear the city of these illegal setups. Speaking to *DH*, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the crackdown is being treated with urgency. "Following the recent case, every police station was ordered to clear quack centres within their jurisdiction. We verified their certificates, and not a single one was found to be legal," Singh told *DH*. He added that the department has written to health authorities to establish a formal verification process for traditional medicine certifications. "To ensure these incidents do not repeat, we are making the beat systems stricter," the Commissioner noted.

Will look for stronger measures: Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao

The state government is now contemplating more than just temporary evictions. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao acknowledged that the current legal framework allows quacks to relocate and restart easily. "They call themselves traditional healers, but it is entirely illegal. If we book a case, they often come out and start somewhere else. We are discussing stronger, more practical measures to curb this permanently," Rao told DH.

SHIVASHAKTHI AYURVEDIC CAMP
SEX PROBLEMS BEFORE MARRIAGE, AFTER MARRIAGE YOU NEED SEX
CHECK UP YOUR BODY
PULSE TESTING FEE Rs. 500
ಶಿವಶಕ್ತಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದಿಕ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್

At the busy entrance to Dr Vishnuvardhan Road, a roadside tent named 'Shivashakthi Ayurvedic Camp' offers 'guaranteed cures' for sexual health and mental stress. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Mystery clinic in Kengeri

A reality check by DH across localities, such as Banaswadi, RT Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and Okalipuram confirmed that many long-standing tents have been dismantled in the last three weeks.

Manjunath, a condiments shop owner in Avalahalli, said, "They used to sell medicines from the boot of an Omni car right here. They haven't been seen for nearly a month now."

However, the trade hasn't disappeared; it has simply evolved. On the busy entrance to Dr Vishnuvardhan Road, a mysterious tent labelled 'Shivashakthi Ayurvedic Camp' has recently appeared. Ironically situated just metres away from a reputed multispeciality hospital and a medical college, the tent operates in a shroud of secrecy. Inside, a middle-aged man sits surrounded by jars of unidentified powders and cloudy liquids.

When *DH* approached the setup, the man's behaviour was noticeably guarded. He refused digital payments, insisting on cash. After a cursory pulse check, he diagnosed the "problem" as "weak nerve signals," prescribing a three-month course for Rs 2,500. He refused to disclose the ingredients of the medicine until the payment was made. As the sun sets, the tent sees a quiet but steady stream of young men, highlighting the persistent demand that keeps such quackery alive.

Missing link in healthcare?

Two in 10 people have sexual health disorders when they are sexually active. Misconceptions, erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation in men, pain during sex, vaginismus in women, and mismatch of expectations in couples are some of the common problems for which people seek medical intervention, experts say.

Why do people, including high-earning professionals like techies, continue to fall prey to these traps? Medical experts point to a systemic failure in addressing sexual health within the formal healthcare sector. Dr Sandip Deshpande, Consultant Psychiatrist and Sexologist, argues that the National Medical Commission (NMC) does not recognise sexual medicine as a specialised field. "Doctors aren't trained to confidently address sexual health, and patients often don't know where to go. This vacuum is what quacks exploit," Dr Deshpande said. He noted that while modern medical practitioners face strict advertising regulations, non-modern medicine quacks often fly under the radar with bold, unsubstantiated claims.

The physical toll of these "cures" is often permanent. Specialists at city hospitals are seeing an uptick in complications arising from unregulated treatments.

Dr Kishan A, Consultant Nephrologist, warned that many "herbal" remedies contain hidden steroids, painkillers, or heavy metals that cause renal damage. "Most patients only come to us when they show symptoms like swelling or low urine output. By then, the damage to the kidneys is often irreversible," he said.

Resorting to these quick-fix solutions can also disrupt menstrual cycles. Dr N Sapna Lulla, Lead Consultant (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), highlighted that women are equally at risk. "Faulty drugs or hormones given without proper tests can disrupt menstrual cycles and cause severe pelvic infections or heavy bleeding," she warned.

'One Bengaluru, One Voice': CXOs, govt flag gaps in city's growth story

BENGALURU, DHNS

For a city often caught between the gleaming glass facades of its tech parks and the waterlogged reality of its streets, the Greater Bengaluru IT Companies and Industries Association (GBITCIA) CXO Meet 2025, held on Saturday, served as a reality check.

Themed 'One Bengaluru, One Voice,' the summit brought together the city's top corporate brass and government heavyweights, not for the usual exchange of pleasantries, but for a post-mortem of Bengaluru's growth.

Labour Minister Santhosh S Lad, in his address, pointed out that while the room represented the elite 10% of the industry, the 90% of the unorganised sector, which provides 65% of the city's employment, remains voiceless in policy-making. "Every officer, every government, every ministry has failed. We have not planned for the next 20 to 30 years," Lad remarked, urging the industry to stop relying on "liaison officers" and instead collaborate with the government on an international-standard strategic plan.

Adding a layer of administrative urgency, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao detailed a Rs 2,300 crore plan for road improvements to be completed before the monsoon. Rao noted that the Metro has already reduced Silk Board congestion by 38% and promised that the completion of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) Metro by next year would provide substantial relief.

The meet also featured a statistical defence of the city by KDEM CEO Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, who noted that Bengaluru remains the heart of India's wealth, contributing 42% of the nation's software exports. However, GBITCIA Chairman Aditya P S emphasised that this success is currently hindered by "fragmented voices". To bridge this, the association unveiled six pillars for 2026, including an 'Employee Readiness Index' and a Metropolitan Liaison Body to provide quantitative data to the government.

The meeting concluded with a call to action from Prof M V Rajeev Gowda to move from "complaining mode" to "action mode", focusing on CSR-driven infrastructure change, government–citizen collaboration (for instance, the Ugly Indian model), and strategic leadership for first- and last-mile connectivity and generational progress.

Industry leaders and government officials attend the GBITCIA CXO Meet 2025 in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Hundreds left homeless after demolition drive in Kogilu

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tension prevailed in Kogilu village near Yelahanka early Saturday morning after officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), with police protection, demolished more than 300 allegedly illegal houses in Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout.

According to GBA officials, the residents had encroached upon land that was allotted to GBA a few years ago, and officials had meetings with the residents to inform them to vacate the area immediately.

The demolition drive, which began around 4.30 am, left over 350 families homeless. Officials deployed four heavy earthmovers to raze the structures after clearing LPG cylinders, stoves, and other flammable materials from the houses. Nearly 150 police personnel, including senior officers, were deployed at the site to prevent any law-and-order issues.

GBA officers said the residents had constructed the houses without any official permission. They claimed most of the occupants had migrated from Hyderabad and parts of Andhra Pradesh and belonged to the Durvish community. However, residents disputed the claims, stating that they had been living in the layouts for over 25 years.

A senior police officer said that GBA officials had sought police protection and more than 200 policemen were deployed to prevent any untoward incidents, and the demolition drive may continue for another couple of days.

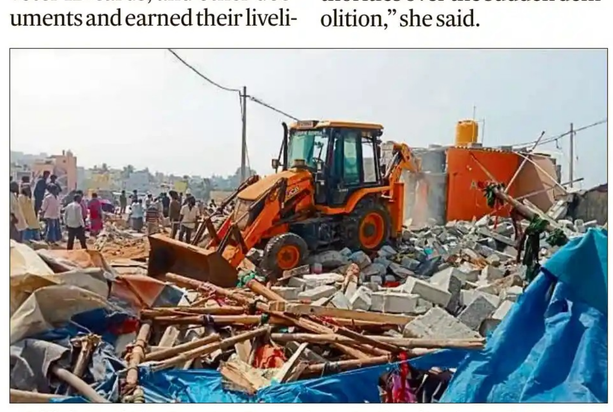
Speaking to *DH*, Pooja HM, a member of Dudiyuva Janara Vedike, said the families possessed valid Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, and other documents and earned their livelihood through begging and odd jobs. "Many families have even taken loans from banks. No prior notice was served before the demolition. Several women are pregnant, and the authorities showed no concern for their condition," she said.

Residents alleged that district administration officials visited the site during the operation but did not provide any clarification or address the concerns of the affected families.

With the demolition continuing through the morning, more than 3,000 people from nearly 300 families were left on the streets. The authorities maintained that the action was taken as part of an anti-encroachment drive, asserting that the land had been illegally occupied.

Sarah Saif Saufik (26) told *DH* that her family had been living in the area for over three decades and was never served any notice before the demolition. "They suddenly arrived around 4.30 am and began demolishing the houses while we were asleep. We woke up to the sound of earthmovers and were shocked. The officials forced us out and did not even allow us to take bedsheets or blankets," she said.

She added that more than 500 children from the area study in private and government schools, and that residents possess valid voter ID cards and have regularly participated in elections. "Many ministers had visited recently and promised roads, drinking water, and houses. Now, they have thrown us onto the streets, and the police hit us when we questioned the authorities over the sudden demolition," she said.



Officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority demolish more than 300 allegedly illegal houses in Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout on Saturday.

New loop at Hebbal flyover opens for trial run

BENGALURU, DHNS: Traffic on the Hebbal flyover is expected to ease from Sunday as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has completed work on the new loop and opened it for trial vehicular movement from Saturday night.

CREDIT: BDA

The new loop is expected to ease traffic congestion for commuters travelling from the city's northern areas, such as Yelahanka, Jakkur, and Sahakar Nagar towards Mehkri Circle. Passengers returning from the airport will also have a smoother drive.

While the new loop is expected to ease congestion, many commuters have raised concerns about potential bottlenecks near Mehkri Circle due to the narrow turn towards Jayamahal Road.

Passengers weigh in on KIA's new pickup model

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

It has been a week since the new pickup rules kicked in at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), and passengers remain divided about their effectiveness.

The new norms, which only allow private vehicles to access the arrival pick-up lanes and limit yellow-board vehicles to designated taxi stands and pickup zones, were enforced at Terminal 2 on December 11 and at Terminal 2 on December 13. While operations in T2 continue to flow in a seemingly smooth manner, the change in operations at T1 has raised some eyebrows due to the designated parking zones being about 700 metres away from the arrival gates.

In an attempt to smooth the transition into the new operations and accommodate the festive rush, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA, has implemented multiple transport options to aid senior citizens, children, and the differently abled. The free transport arrangements between T1 and P3 and P4, which are the dedicated parking zones for the terminal, include four buggies, one shuttle bus, one high-capacity passenger van, and three cars. These are in addition to wheelchair support, a BIAL representative shared.

Apart from these, the shuttle buses which operate between T1 and T2 also make a pit stop at P3 and P4. However, the lack of awareness among passengers about these transport options is leaving an air of frustration across the terminal.

For Kushi, travelling from Mumbai, the accessible pickup feature used to be one of the main highlights of the terminal. "It used to be so convenient to just step out and find a taxi driver waiting for you already," she said.

Better training of the on-ground staff would help benefit the initiative, according to passengers.

"Some of the ground staff themselves do not seem to fully comprehend how the changes work. I spent about 20 minutes waiting for a buggy, as instructed by the staff. But in the end, my mother and I just started walking. We eventually found an empty buggy along the way," said Narayan, from Electronics City. Irrespective of the 15–20 minute walk to the parking zone, many hail the new way of operations for its improved safety and decongested lanes.

"It felt like a breath of fresh air walking out of Terminal 1 after the new rules, which no longer allow taxis to crowd the arrival lanes. It was absolute chaos before, with taxi drivers leaving no space for other vehicles. Plus, they always behaved in an uncouth manner," said a middle-aged female passenger.

Bhumika Club wraps up the year with festive wellness sessions

Breast cancer awareness took focus through expert-led discussions

BENGALURU, DHNS

Entertainment and wellness sessions marked the Christmas edition of Bhumika Club on Saturday, making it a fitting celebration of the year's close and new beginnings. Held at Indiranagar Club, the venue wore a festive look, with audience members donning Santa hats and red or white outfits.

The occasion was the 14th Bengaluru edition of *Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils presents Bhumika*, powered by Manipal Hospitals. An initiative of *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*, Bhumika Club aims to provide women a platform to connect, engage and network. Several participants were accompanied by their children and spouses.

The evening opened with a breast cancer awareness session led by Dr Poonam Patil, consultant in medical oncology, immunotherapy and precision medicine at Manipal Hospitals. She said that breast cancer is the most common cancer among Indian women. It occurs particularly in the 35–50 age group, a phase of life often marked by peak productivity and family responsibilities. She said the survival probability is very high if the cancer is detected at an early stage.

Dispelling common myths, Dr Poonam explained that most breast lumps are benign, that breast cancer can affect women even if they are not lactating, and that in rare cases men can also develop the disease. She urged women above 20 to regularly observe their bodies and examine their breasts and underarms for unusual changes using their fingertips. The signs can range from new lumps or thickening in the breast or underarm (often painless) to changes in breast shape or size, blood-stained discharge, nipples turning inward, or persistent pain. If a change does not go away in two to three weeks, she advised consulting a doctor for clarification.

The focus then shifted to fitness and movement. Zumba instructor Chandana Lakshmikanth underscored the importance of daily exercise and said that age is no bar when it comes to dancing. Participants pushed chairs aside or moved closer to the stage to groove with her to numbers such as *Ek Do Teen* and *Monica*.

The event, which ran for over two hours, was interspersed with performances, interactive activities and prizes. Young students from Padmini Priya Nruthya Kala Academy presented a Bharatanatyam recital depicting Yashoda and the gopis attempting to pacify little Krishna, who is upset at being denied maakhan (butter). Singer Anagha M kept the energy high with sing-alongs to popular Kannada songs such as *Jokae* and *Naguva Nayana*.

In the latter half of the programme, two audience members competed in a cookery challenge, preparing kesari bhat and sheera. Stand-up comedian Varshini brought the evening to a close with laughter-filled observations on matchmaking.

Audience join in on the dance floor, grooving to popular numbers at the Christmas edition of Bhumika Club on Saturday. DH PHOTOS

Dr Poonam Patil of Manipal Hospitals speaks about breast cancer and its early detection at the event.

Senior citizen dies after being hit by speeding jeep

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 60-year-old pedestrian was killed after being struck by a speeding Mahindra Thar jeep on Old Airport Road late Friday night. The incident occurred near the Rajeshwari Theatre bus stop in Murugeshpalya.

The deceased was identified as Jayapal, a resident of Anandpura in JB Nagar.

According to the police, the accident took place around 10.45 pm when a 25-year-old woman was driving the jeep at high speed from ISRO Junction towards HAL. The jeep hit Jayapal when he attempted to cross the road. The impact of the collision left the senior citizen with grievous injuries.

Passersby and emergency responders rushed Jayapal to a nearby hospital.

However, he succumbed to his injuries en route and was declared brought dead by the doctors.

The JB Nagar traffic police arrived at the spot shortly after the incident for inspection. Based on a complaint filed by the victim's son, the police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving causing death.

"We have taken the driver, Anjali Narendran, into custody and seized the Mahindra Thar involved in the accident. A detailed investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances of the crash," a senior police officer said.

Cop suspended for links with criminals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) Nagaraj, attached to the Yelahanka New Town police station, has been placed under suspension for allegedly maintaining close links with anti-social elements and persons with criminal antecedents.

According to senior police officials, PSI Nagaraj was seen attending events involving rowdies and individuals accused in criminal cases, including land-grabbing offences. He was also reportedly seen cutting a cake and accepting felicitations from such persons during a birthday celebration. Photographs and videos from the event later went viral on social media, triggering public outrage.

Taking note of the incident, senior officers ordered a detailed inquiry. Based on the findings, action was initiated against the PSI.

Among those present at the celebration was Das, a habitual offender against whom multiple criminal cases have been registered in the limits of Rajanukunte, Chikkajala, and Yelahanka New Town police stations.

Following the inquiry, East Zone Joint Commissioner of Police Ramesh Banoth issued the suspension order against PSI Nagaraj, officials said.

Police sources said the conduct of the officer was found to be against the discipline and integrity expected of members of the police force.

Businessman dies by suicide after jumping in front of train

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 41-year-old businessman died by suicide after jumping in front of a moving train at Nayandahalli Junction on Mysuru Road on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Kishan Shetty, a native of Brahmavar in Udupi district, who had been residing in Vijayanagar with his wife and two daughters.

According to the City Railway Police, the incident occurred at around 8.30 am when Shetty suddenly stepped onto the railway tracks as a train was approaching the junction. He was run over by the train and died on the spot. Railway staff who noticed the incident immediately alerted the City Railway Police, and the body was shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem.

Based on a complaint lodged by Shetty's wife, the police registered a case of unnatural death.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Shetty was running a logistics business and had reportedly suffered significant financial losses. He had earlier approached the Govindarajanagar police and filed a complaint alleging that some of his business partners had cheated him of nearly Rs 60 lakh in the business.

He was said to be under severe mental stress following the dispute and the financial setback. Investigators further revealed that Shetty had earlier attempted suicide in a similar manner on the Yeshwantpur railway track, but passersby rescued him. Police believe that continuing financial distress may have driven him to take the extreme step. However, no suicide note was found at the spot, police said.

BSMILE in final stages of DPR preparation for 13 elevated corridors

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (BSMILE) has finalised the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the construction of 13 elevated corridors in the city and has called tenders for firms to proof-check the DPRs of five elevated corridors.

According to the tender notification, the firms are expected to proof-check the DPRs for the construction of the following elevated corridors: the 17.94-km-long flyover between Nagavara Junction and Bagalur Main Road via R K Hegde Nagar; the 27.19-km elevated corridor from Mother Teresa Circle (Ulsoor Lake Junction) to Bagalur Village (New Airport Road) via Assaye Road; the 10.81-km flyover from Old Madras Road to Electronic City Flyover via Swami Vivekananda Metro Station, Indiranagar; the 5.22-km elevated corridor from Sirsi Circle to Nayandahalli on Mysuru Road; and the 18.47-km elevated corridor from Marenahalli Main Road (Ragi Gudda Junction) to Kanakapura Main Road via BWSSB Pipeline Road.

BSMILE has proposed the construction of 13 flyovers across the city at a cost of Rs 18,204 crore to decongest traffic. The total length of the flyovers runs up to 126.44 km. According to sources, depending on the length, toll charges will be collected on a few of these elevated corridors.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Inauguration of Science and Art Fair: M Krishnappa, Guests: D Shashikumar, Girijamma, Krishna, Mahendra Munnoth: Gurukula International School, Magadi Road; 8.30 am

S V Narayanaswamy Rao Birth Centenary: Closing Ceremony, 101st Birthday Celebration, 'SVN Rao Birth Centenary' Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation: SVN Memorial Hall, Nettigere Village, Somanahalli; 9.30 am

CULTURAL

Vocal concert: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira; vocal concert by Jayanth Krishnamurthi, Vishwajith Mattur on violin; B J Shrinivas on mridanga; 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 5.30 pm

Margasheershotsava: Harikatha: Vishakha Hari and Team: Surabharathi, HRBR Layout; 6.30 pm

Play: T P Kailasam's 'Ammavra Ganda'; 4 pm Rajendra Karanth's 'Muddannana Promotion Prasanga': Dr C Ashwath Kalabhavan, N R Colony, 7 pm

Play: 'Arividda Dina Nanu Iruve': G K Jayaram: Ekalavya Players: National College, Jayanagar; 7 pm

Music concert: Vocals: T S Pattabhirama Pandit, Violin: Keshav Mohan Kumar, Mridangam: Bangalore V Praveen: Lecture Theatre, Golden Jubilee Block, St John's Medical College Campus, Koramangala; 4.15 pm

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.2°C
Minimum	14.4°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Dec 21)	5:58 pm
Sunrise (Dec 20)	6:36 am
Moonrise	6:45 am
Moonset	6:12 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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School Management Committee (SMC) reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason. Shortlisted candidates will be notified about the dates of the selection process through **e-mail only.**

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

Tender No : N_01_HQ_2025-26. Name of work : Provision of 4 x 48 fiber OFC for communication backbone in section New Bongaigaon - Goalpara-Kamakhya (176 RKm) and Golakganj to Abhyapuri (84.84 RKm) of Rangiya Division under HUN6 sections.

Details	Existing	Modified as
As per Tender Document, Chapter-III (SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF TENDER AND CONTRACT), Clause 36.0 TERMS OF PAYMENT:	**Bill Passing Authority:** The bill passing authority will be **Principal Financial Advisor, Divisional Accounts** of N.F. Railway. The bill preparing authority for the execution of work will be **Sr. DSTE/ Rangiya** in the respective Divisions of N. F. Railway.	**Bill Passing Authority:** The bill passing authority will be **Divisional Accounts** of N.F. Railway. The bill preparing authority for the execution of work will be **Sr. DSTE/Rangiya** in the respective Divisions of N. F. Railway.
At page no. 1 & 3 of Tender document	At page no. 1 & 3 of Tender document Tender No. is written as N_1_HQ-2025-26	At page no. 1 & 3 of Tender document Tender No. is to be read as N_01_HQ-2025-26

All terms & conditions will remain same as per tender documents published on www.ireps.gov.in

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By
V. SOMANNA
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

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Take steps to curb spread of seasonal flu: Health dept to districts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The health department has written to district health officials to put in place measures to prevent the spread of seasonal influenza and to ensure they are prepared to handle any surge in cases.

In a circular issued on Saturday, the department noted that seasonal influenza cases are expected to rise during winter–January to March - and hence, there is a need to be prepared.

According to the circular, the districts are expected to ensure sample collection from at least 5% of influenza-like illness (ILI) cases and 100% of severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) cases and send them to mapped influenza laboratories for influenza testing.

All districts should ensure that there are sufficient stocks of PPE, N95 masks and other essential logistics.

"Ensure availability of Oseltamivir of all dosages at all levels of health facilities. Consider Influenza vaccination for healthcare workers belonging to high-risk groups (elderly, pregnant women, persons with chronic illnesses)," the circular said.

The department also asked the districts to ensure availability and ventilators in functioning mode for proper management of critical influenza cases and to take up enough awareness drives.

Seasonal influenza (seasonal flu) is an infectious viral disease that spreads mainly through droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or by touching contaminated surfaces.

The illness is usually self-limiting and lasts for 5-7 days, with generally low morbidity and mortality.

However, infants, elderly, pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals and those on long-term medications, especially steroids, are at higher risk of complications and may require hospitalization.

Days after FTA deal, India's GI-tagged lemon enters Oman market

Known as Kagzi lemon, fruit prized for high juice content

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Karnataka's pride, a GI-tagged lemon produced largely in Vijayapura district is set to enter the Oman market with the first shipment sent for the Gulf nation.

The shipment of three metric tonnes of the citrus fruit known for its thin rind and high juice content was exported to Muscat, days after India and Oman entered into a free trade agreement.

Also known as Kagzi lemon, it was first exported to Dubai in August with a three-metric tonne shipment and following an encouraging response, the union government decided to export it to Oman.

Because of the positive feedback it received from Dubai, another 12 tonnes of Indi lime from Vijayapura was exported to the UAE. In addition, another 350 kg is being exported to the UK, the union commerce ministry said.

The export of Indi Lime to Oman assumes added significance in light of the recently signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) or Free Trade Agreement between India and Oman, which aims to deepen bilateral economic ties and expand market access for Indian exporters.

Three metric tonnes of Kagzi lemon, grown in several parts of Vijayapura including Indi taluk and known for thin rind and high juice content, were exported to Oman, days after the free trade agreement between India and the Gulf nation.

The agreement is expected to benefit key sectors such as agricultural and processed food products and animal products, enhancing India's export competitiveness in the Omani market.

"The successful shipment of GI-tagged Indi lime reflects the growing opportunities for Indian agri-products under the strengthened trade framework," the ministry said.

The GI status of Indi Lime, known for its distinctive aroma, high juice content and longer shelf life, has played a crucial role in positioning the fruit competitively in global markets.

To popularise the lemon variety, Karnataka State Lime Development Board plans to open up lemon tea points in Vijayapura and Bengaluru. The joints will also sell other lime products.

Vijayapura district produces 80% of Karnataka's total lemon output, but has seen a 30% decline in recent years due to water scarcity, prompting many farmers to switch to less water-intensive crops.

Karnataka ranks fourth in lemon production after Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and officials watch a sound and light show on Vijayanagara empire, in Hampi of Vijayanagara district on Saturday.

FM holds pre-budget meeting with officials at Hampi

HAMPI (VIJAYANAGAR DIST), DHNS: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a pre-budget meeting with ministry officials at a resort at Malapanagudi near the heritage town on Saturday.

The minister holds such meetings prior to every budget at different places in the country. The move has kindled hopes among the local people that the budget will have special grants on offer for Hampi, to develop its historic monuments from the Vijayanagar era.

In the evening, the minister and her team were taken around a tour of the ancient elephant and horse stables in Hampi.

A sound and light show was organised with the elephant stables in the backdrop, showcasing the glory and grandeur of the erstwhile Vijayanagar kings.

Performances by artistes of yakshagana, dollu kunitha, pata kunitha, puja kunitha and Nandi kolu and other folk arts were arranged to entertain the dignitaries.

High command will call us to Delhi: DKS on tussle with Siddu

DKS, From Page 3

He added that he is going to the national capital on Tuesday to take part in a meeting called by Jal Shakti minister regarding river-linking.

During his meeting with the Jal Shakti minister, the deputy CM said he would discuss some of the major projects in the state. "I will discuss our state's major projects such as Mahadayi, Upper Krishna, Mekedatu and Upper Bhadra. At the same time, I have sought time to meet the Union forest minister and the Union urban development minister also."

With regards to the inquiry notice from Delhi police, he said, "I am going to Delhi on Tuesday, and at that time I will also meet the Delhi police."

Shivakumar said he also planned to meet the MPs from the state. "...After all this, if possible, I will try to meet the prime minister."

Modi goes after Oppn over 'infiltration'

Modi, From Page 3

"In the past 11 years, we have been trying to correct those sins committed by the Congress. Lakhs of crores are being invested to revamp infrastructure and to script new chapters of growth in the region. The Northeast is being transformed into India's gateway to South East Asia through the Act East Policy," Modi said.

Modi is on a two-day visit to Assam, where Assembly elections are scheduled in March-April. The BJP is looking to win the elections for a third straight term in the state.

Bidar shivers at 5º C as cold wave grips N-K

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: A severe cold wave and dense fog have gripped north Karnataka, causing minimum temperatures to drop to single digits in 12 districts. On Saturday, Bidar experienced minimum temperature as low as 5.3º Celsius.

Belagavi saw temperatures drop to 5.9º Celsius while Dharwad, Vijayanagar, Bagalkot and Vijayapura witnessed temperatures dropping below 7º Celsius. Minimum temperatures in 6 more districts in the region - Gadag, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Uttara Kannada and Raichur - dropped below 10º Celsius.

According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, districts in North Karnataka will reel under cold wave for next 2 to 3 days.

The IMD has issued orange alert to Bidar, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Raichur and Vijayapura districts till Monday (Dec 22).

FOND MEMORIES

Acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam, lead actor Manisha Koirala and cinematographer Rajiv Menon, key-members of 'Bombay' film, revisited Bekal Fort which had served as a iconic backdrop of the evergreen `Uyire Uyire' song (Tu hi re in Hindi language and composed by A R Rahman) three decades ago prior to inaugurating the International Beach Festival at Bekal near Kasargod, Kerala on Saturday.

7 jumbos dead as Rajdhani Exp rams herd in Assam

Jumbo, From Page 3

The NFR said it prevented several mishaps by adopting many measures, including an AI-enabled system to track movement of elephants on some stretches.

The site where the mishap took place is not a designated elephant corridor, the NFR added.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma instructed the forest department to conduct an inquiry into the incident.

Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar, an eminent conservationist, who heads elephant research and conservation division at Aaranyak, a biodiversity conservation group, said both railway and the forest department should enhance coordination to prevent such mishaps.

"Till the railways install an AI-enabled system in all the elephant corridors, they can engage volunteers to keep vigil along the tracks to prevent such incidents. Railways is a profit-earning organisation, so it should also invest in the protection of our national heritage animal. It should be the responsibility of both the forest department and the railways," Lahkar told *DH*.

10km & waiting: B'luru stuck in long traffic jams

Traffic, From Page 3

Reflecting on the challenges of redesigning these hubs, Reddy said candidly: "Traffic can neither be created nor destroyed; it can only be moved. It's like a leak if we tighten it at one junction, it leaks at another. We are currently conducting trials at Kundalahalli to see if we can stem the flow, but it often just shifts the jam elsewhere."

The solution

Reddy also reiterated the need for carpooling and corporate intervention. "Egos are high; no one wants to leave their car. We've suggested that companies adopt a special 'no-work' day or mandatory carpooling. If we reduce cars by even 10%, the impact on the Outer Ring Road would be massive," he added.

In a bid to tackle the issue, traffic police have been experimenting with changes in signal timings, especially in areas like Hopefarm.

"We have seen some improvement after modifying signal timings at Hopefarm," Reddy noted.

Kalaburagi BJP worker immolates herself

KALABURAGI, DHNS: A BJP worker immolated herself in front of the house of a realtor in Nandikur village of Kalaburagi taluk on Friday night. The deceased has been identified as Jyothi Patil (35). The police have registered a case of abetment of suicide against Mallinath Biradar, the realtor.

According to police, Jyothi went to the house of Mallinath all of a sudden on Friday night and knocked on the door. His wife and three children were in the house. As soon as the door was opened Jyothi inquired for Mallianath. Even before Mallinath's family members could react, Jyothi doused herself in petrol and set herself on fire.

The villagers had a tough time in identifying the body. The police, who rushed to the spot, checked the documents found in a two-wheeler parked near Biradar's house and later summoned Jyothi's husband to the spot for identification.

Tender cannot be notified twice over for same work, rules HC

Imposes Rs 50,000 cost on RDPR executive engineer

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has imposed Rs 50,000 as a cost upon an executive engineer of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Haveri, for twice notifying the tender for the same work.

The court said the amount is payable as litigation cost to the petitioner, a class-A government contractor, and that the executive engineer must pay it from his personal funds.

The petitioner, Gopi Gollar, a class-A government contractor from Ranebennur taluk of Haveri district, was the successful bidder in the tender for the "construction, commissioning and operation with maintenance for one year of 3 KLD Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) at Balambeed Gram Panchayat in Hangal taluk of Haveri district. The tender was issued by the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department. On May 27, 2025, the work order was issued to Gopi Gollar and subsequently an agreement was entered into between the parties for execution of the work.

On September 9, 2025, a fresh notice inviting tender was issued for the same work. The fresh tender notification was issued for the very same work and at the same place that was already allotted in favour of the petitioner, the petition said.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that every step of the tender process reached its logical conclusion in the first tender. Upon the agreement being entered into between the parties for execution of the work, what remained was merely the commencement of the execution of the work. Therefore, all rights stood crystallised in favour of the petitioner in accordance with law, the court said.

The court said that the executive engineer, RDPR, could not have thereafter re-notified a tender for the same work, dubbing it to be reserved for the scheduled caste category. This resulted in upturning a concluded contract between the petitioner and the Rural Drinking Water Department, the court said.

"A tender cannot be notified twice over for the same work. The unsustainability of the fresh tender necessarily leads to its obliteration. The obliteration cannot be a mere formality, for respondent No.5 (executive engineer), being fully aware of the earlier tender process and it being concluded, has re-notified a fresh tender for the same purpose and for the same work. This act is illegal and high-handed on the face of it," Justice Nagaprasanna said, while imposing the cost.

PRPL. BENCH
BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, BASAVA BHAVAN, BANGALORE: 560 001
SC/29/A/193/2025

Appellant : 1. Prime City Owners Association, Prime City, Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100, Represented by its Secretary (Registered in the Office of District Registrar 3rd Region, Bengaluru Urban District Registered in number 450/2015-16).

Respondent : 1. Prime Estate Developers & Builders (P) Ltd., its office at: 701, 30th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076. Rep. by its Managing Director Mr. K.V. Ramana Reddy.
2. Mrs. M. Mamatha W/o Mr. Munireddy, Aged Major, R/at: No.829, 11th Main Road, 7th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076.
3. Mrs. K. Basaveshwari W/o K. Athmananda, Aged major, R/at: No. 1256, 11th Cross, 21st 'C' Main Road, 1st Section, HSR Layout, Bengaluru- 560102.
4. Mr. Varaha Venkatesh S/o Late L. Krishna Reddy, Aged major, R/at: No.1819, 13th Cross, 24th Main, 1st Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102.
5. Mr. Munireddy S/o Late Venkataramanappa, Aged major, R/at: No.829, 11th Main Road, 7th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076.
To, **01. Prime Estate Developers & Builders (P) Ltd.,** its office at: 701, 30th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076. Rep. by its Managing Director Mr. K.V. Ramana Reddy.

SUBSTITUTE NOTICE U/S 5 RULE 20 OF CPC, 1908 TO THE RESPONDENT NO. 01 IN ENGLISH DAILY NEWS PAPER "DECCAN HERALD" BENGALURU EDITION

Whereas the Appellant has filed the above appeal Challenging the order passed by the District Consumer Commission, Bangalore 1st Addl. in Complaint No.407/2024 Pronounced by an order dated : 04/12/2024. You are hereby notified to appear before this Hon'ble Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized as per law to answer all the material question of facts and law relating to the Appeal **on 02nd Day of February Two Thousand and Twenty Six (02/02/2026) at 10.30 AM.**

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under the hand and seal of this Commission **on this 18th day of December Two Thousand and Twenty Five (18/12/2025).**

By order of the Commission, ASST. REGISTRAR CUM ASST. ADMN. OFFICER, K.S.C.D.R.C., BANGALORE-560001.

Advocate for Appellant

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum-3 to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/148/2025 Dated 13.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Customization, Implementation, Operations & Maintenance support of Integrated Project Management and information system (PMIS) for various projects under South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No. PMIS-SWR-01)**	**Rs. 6,66,00,380/-**

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Revised**
30.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	**14.01.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/749/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

RFP for Procurement of Hardware for PACS I Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Government of Jharkhand

BID NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF HARDWARE EQUIPMENT'S FOR PACS

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES GOVT. OF JHAKRHAND
No.-2845 **Dated-16.12.2025**

Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand invites bids for the work mentioned below. The RFP document can be accessed and downloaded from https://jharkhand.gov.in/agriculture/dcs or GeM Portal.

Bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) obtained from any licenced Certifying Authorities (CA). Interested Bidders should follow the "Manuals" available on https://jharkhand.gov.in/agriculture/dcs or GeM Portal.

The Pre-qualification, technical and commercial bids shall be submitted online through GeM Portal up to the end date & time mentioned below.

Sr. No.	Description	RFP fee	EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) in Rs.	Start date for online Bid Downloading	End date for online Bid Submission
1	Procurement of Hardware equipment's for PACS under CSS "Computerization of PACS"	NA	Rs. 39,64,000.00	18.12.2025	02.01.2026

Note: Earnest money Deposit (EMD) must be submitted on or before due date & time prescribed in the RFP Schedule at the office of RFP inviting authority.

The prospective bidder(s) should submit their suggestions/observations, if any, in writing / email by the date as mentioned in the RFP schedule. Only suggestions / observations received in writing/email will be clarified and any modification of the RFP documents shall be made by Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies exclusively through the issue of an addendum/corrigendum. The RFP uploaded shall be read along with any modification. Authorized representatives of prospective bidder(s) can attend the said meeting and obtain clarification regarding specifications, works & RFP conditions.

The RFP document is available on https://jharkhand.gov.in/agriculture/dcs and **GeM portal** along with this Bid notice.

The bidders are required to submit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. **39,64,000.00/- (Rupees Thirtynine lakhs sixty four thousand Rupee Only)** in form of bank guarantee/ demand draft issued by any commercial bank in the favour of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand.

The bidder shall have to pay EMD in the form of bank guarantee issued by any commercial bank in the favour of Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand.

Note: - EMD should be submitted to the Office of Registrar Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand in original as per the Schedule mentioned in this RFP document.

The Authority Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand shall not be liable for any omission, mistake or error in respect of any of the above or on account of any matter or thing arising out of or concerning or relating to the RFP or the Bidding Process, including any error or mistake therein or in any information or data given by the Authority.

The Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand reserves the right to reject all or any of the bid(s) without assigning any reason at any stage.

Bidders shall note that any corrigendum issued regarding this bid notice/RFP will be published on the portal only. No corrigendum will be published in the local newspapers.

Sd/-
Registrar
Co-operative Societies,Jharkhand

PR 369053 Co-opretive(25-26).D

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Erode invites Online tender for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_16, Dated: 19.12.2025
Description of Work	Works Contract for Calibration of Measuring Instruments available at Elctric Loco Shed, Salem Division, Southern Railway, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Erode invites Online tender for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_15, Dated: 05.12.2025
Description of Work	Works Contract for Repair / Rehabilitation of Centre Pivot assembly by replacing existing plate with 32 mm thick plate in WAP4 type BG AC electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Salem - 636 005 for the following work.

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	
1	Tender Notice No. and Date	**GEM/2025/B/7015090, Dated: 18.12.2025**
2	Name of the Work	**Outcome Based Mechanized Comprehensive Cleaning Contract at Karur Railway Station & Colony for a period of two years (730 days) inclusive of garbage disposal**
3	Estimate Value	**₹ 1,69,21,185/-**
4	Earnest Money Deposit	**₹ 2,34,700/-**
5	Tender Closing Date & Time	**08.01.2026, at 12.00 Hrs.**
6	Web Address	**https://www.gem.gov.in**

The firms registered in GeM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. For details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"https://www.gem.gov.in".**

For details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"https://www.gem.gov.in"**

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any corrigendum is issued for any correction, deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at **"https://www.gem.gov.in".**

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Salem - 636 005

STUNTED CHILD CARE Poorly paid workers forced to spend own money for eggs & veggies

Funds, fundas & more: 50 yrs on, nothing goes right for anganwadis

SHRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

> Every third child under the age of five years suffers from chronic malnutrition. Studies conducted in Belagavi and Koppal using WHO growth standards show 32% of children under five are underweight
>
> **Gopal Dabade**
> Social activist

Tears well up in Basamma's eyes as she recounts her life of service. A resident of Koppal, Basamma has been working for over 20 years as an anganwadi worker, putting in nearly 10 hours a day for a modest honorarium of Rs 12,500 per month.

"I will be retiring in the next couple of years, but there are no post-retirement benefits. The only solace is that we have worked with dedication. Much more could have been achieved had successive governments responded positively to our demands," she says.

Basamma's story reflects the plight of thousands of anganwadi workers across Karnataka who work tirelessly to implement child and maternal health programmes.

Pre-nursery classes

Karnataka is among the few states where anganwadi centres have played a crucial role not only in running pre-nursery education centres, but also in combating malnutrition, reducing infant and maternal mortality rates, monitoring the health of undernourished children and providing nutritious food to pregnant and lactating women.

This year marks the golden jubilee of anganwadi centres in the state. Launched in 1975 in Mysuru district, the initiative later expanded across the state. However, despite completing 50 years and overcoming numerous challenges, the system has not evolved to its full potential.

While successive governments have introduced several health schemes to address malnutrition and promote institutional deliveries, issues faced by anganwadi workers have largely been ignored.

According to the women and child welfare department, Karnataka has 69,919 functional anganwadi centres. But due to inadequate funding and prolonged neglect, nearly 33.5% — about 16,000 centres — operate from rented buildings. Another 20% function out of ashraya houses, temple premises and community halls.

District-wise, 465 anganwadi centres in Dharwad operate from rented premises, followed by Belagavi (1,360), Tumakuru (568), Kalaburagi (600), Mysuru (265), Shivamogga (166), Mandya (161) and Hassan (116).

Crammed premises

"Running anganwadi centres from rented buildings poses several challenges. There is severe shortage of space, no separate kitchen and no playgrounds. Often, we are forced to pay rent from our own salaries due to delays in reimbursement by the department," said Savitri, an anganwadi worker from Koppal.

Another major concern is the rising cost of vegetables and eggs. Workers allege that fluctuating prices force them to pay the difference from their own pockets.

"Eggs currently cost between Rs 7 and Rs 8 each, but the government allocates only Rs 5 per egg. When we raise this issue, officials ask us to manage within sanctioned funds or pay the difference ourselves. At times, we are even instructed to purchase eggs strictly within allotted funds, which means some children go without eggs," said Arati, an anganwadi worker from Dharwad.

The department has also advised some anganwadi centres to grow vegetables to meet nutritional requirements. However, workers say this is impractical given their workload and lack of time.

Services unregularised

All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) state president Somashekar Yadgir told *DH* that the demand to include anganwadi workers and helpers under group 'C' and 'D' cadres had remained unaddressed for nearly two decades.

"At present, an anganwadi worker receives an honorarium of Rs 12,500, while a helper gets Rs 6,500. Given the rising prices, it is impossible to run the household on such meagre pay," he said.

He said while anganwadi working hours were earlier from 9 am to 1 pm, they have been extended up to 4 pm over the past three years without additional benefits.

Yadgir pointed out that even after 50 years, the integrated child development services continue to be treated as a scheme rather than a full-fledged department.

Earlier, the union government contributed 90% of the funding, but allocations were reduced after 2014. The state government has not revised the honorarium, he said.

Malnourishment challenge

Social activist and secretary of Jagruti organisation Gopal Dabade said malnutrition continued to be a major public health challenge.

"Every third child under the age of five years suffers from chronic malnutrition. Studies conducted in Belagavi and Koppal using WHO growth standards show 32% of children under five are underweight," he said.

He said as per the NITI Aayog (Nourishing India: National Nutritional Strategy), five districts in Karnataka - Ballari, Bagalkot, Koppal, Kalaburagi and Yadgir are among 100 poor performing districts with very high levels of stunting.

A file photo of a protest by anganwadi workers and helpers in Bengaluru. Forming the basic units of infant and maternal care, anganwadi centres have remained perennially sick. Many operate out of rented buildings and have no separate kitchens or playgrounds.

tcs TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES PRESENTS
BANYAN TREE'S Ruhaniyat SEEKING THE DIVINE 25 YEARS
Saturday, 24th Jan 2026 | 6:15 pm
A GLIMPSE OF BAUL WORLDVIEW - Uttam Das Baul
SPANISH MYSTICAL COMPOSITIONS - Eva Serrano
SO SAID THE MYSTICS OF GUJARAT - Hemant Chauhan & Group
AFRICAN KORA STRINGS & MYSTIC SONGS - Dawda Jobarteh (Gambia)
KABIR CHAURA - Mir Mukhtiyar Ali & Group
QAWWALI - Chand Nizami & Group

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DH DECCAN HERALD
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We are a leading newspaper and magazine publishing group in Karnataka. We invite applications for the following position in our organisation.

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Dharmasthala case: Complainant claims threat to life, seeks police protection

MANGALURU, DHNS: omplainant-witness in the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala, who was released on bail following his arrest on perjury charges, has sought police protection, citing threat to his life.

Chinna S, alias Chinnayya, submitted a petition to the Belthangady police station on December 18, seeking protection for himself and his wife. He stated that Mahesh Shetty Thimmarody, Girish Mattannavar, Vittal Gowda, Jayanth and Sameer M D could pose a threat to their lives. Based on the petition, a complaint has been registered at Belthangady station and further action will be taken, said police.

Chinnayya had lodged a complaint alleging mass burial in Dharmasthala after which the Dharmasthala police had registered a case initially and later, the case was transferred to Special Investigation Team (SIT). During the SIT investigation, Chinnayya reportedly admitted that the skull he had produced did not belong to the body he claimed to have buried. Following this, SIT officials arrested him on August 23 on the charges of perjury. He was released on bail on on December 18.

BJP writes to guv against approving hate speech bill, to approach Prez

It suppresses freedom of expression, says Shobha

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state BJP has decided to approach the President of India and has written to the governor against the hate speech prevention bill brought in by the Congress government.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje told a news conference on Saturday that in order to silence those who speak against Congress, the government had brought in the bill. "I have written a letter to the governor, requesting not to approve the bill as it suppresses freedom of expression," she said.

The minister said, "The Congress government is imposing an undeclared emergency. The mentality of Congress is that whatever it does must be accepted without questioning. The bill was passed in the Assembly, without allowing discussion."

"This bill not only violates the boundary between the executive and the judiciary, but also goes against the spirit of the Constitution. If necessary, I will also meet the President," she added.

The minister said, "A fact check agency has been started, giving the responsibility to Congress workers. It is headed by Minister Priyank Kharge".

Shobha alleged that the agency's meeting was held in 2023 under the leadership of Rajneesh Goel.

"There are private people in it. There are some private agencies and institutions that help Congress. For this, Rs 3 to Rs 4 crore is being spent annually," she said.

"Cases have been filed against 35 BJP social media workers, besides MLAs and MLCs, Shobha said.

KBG suspecting own partymen sign of tussle in Cong: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Saturday said that the statement by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda doubting his own party members in the recent land grabbing allegations against him is a sign of ongoing tussle for power within the Congress party.

Writing on X, Ashoka recalled the statement by senior Congress leader and former minister K N Rajanna about the honey-trap attempts against him and his family members. "Now, another minister suspects that his own party colleagues are conspiring to tarnish his image. Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has said that the land-grab allegations against him are being orchestrated by his own party members," he wrote.

Statement by the minister has held a mirror to the relentless internal squabbles within the Congress party. "Whether it is mere coincidence or a systematic plot that leaders repeatedly identified with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's group are being targeted in this way. Who is the 'great leader' behind this conspiracy?" Ashoka sought to know.

Ashoka further stated that his party has no interest in Congress' internal conflicts. However, if the ruling party is engulfed in such infighting, it will have adverse effects on governance and development of the state, he wrote. Ashoka quoted a news item published in *DH* along with his statement on X.

Kerala tourist found dead in lake near Gangavathi

GANGAVATHI (KOPPAL DISTRICT), DHNS: A 34-year-old tourist from Kerala drowned in a lake near Sanapur in Gangavathi taluk on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Cyril Jose. According to police, the tourist was staying at Basapur. On Dec 17, Jose left to explore places nearby and did not return. The following day a missing complaint was lodged. After two days of search, the body of Jose was found floating at Sanapur lake. A case has been registered.

Film celebrating glory of lotus delights kids

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Feature film 'Padmagandhi', about a young girl enchanted by the lotus, is drawing curious children to the cinemas.

Leela, the protagonist, seeks to understand the significance of the flower, and stumbles on its preeminence in art, literature, religion, spirituality, science and medicine.

K Suchendra Prasad, director, first made the 125-minute film in Sanskrit, and then dubbed it in Kannada and Hindi. "Focusing on the enduring significance of the lotus, the film subtly reminds viewers of our thriving traditions," he told *DH*.

Now on the big screen in its second week, the film is aimed at young minds. 'Padmagandhi' also illuminates the flower's symbolic connection to India's highest civilian awards: the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan. "This emphasises the flower's deep-rooted place in the cultural consciousness of the nation," said Suchendra Prasad, who has also made a mark as an actor in several Kannada films.

A still from the movie 'Padmagandhi.'

Sanskrit scholar S R Leela's in-depth research, combined with Prasad's own research, provided the basis for the narrative. Leela has also produced the film, starring Paripoorna Chandrashekhar, Dr. Deepak Paramashivan, Mahapadma, Mrityunjaya Shastri, and others.

Cinema in Sanskrit is rare–G V Iyer is known for his films on Sankara, Madhwa and Ramanuja, three great Vedantic acharyas. 'Padmagandhi' unfolds a tapestry of ancient history, throwing light on temple sculpture and Vedic teaching, Suchendra Prasad said.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Reg.Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051. Email -Id: ceobswml@gmail.com

Ref.: CEO/PS/PR/55/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

:: Public Notice ::

(For the Bulk Waste Generators within the jurisdiction of Greater Bengaluru Authority)
Management of Bulk Waste through Authorized Waste Processor
{M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a subsidiary of M/s Mukka Proteins Limited-AWP-298031620230056214 9}

1. Whereas, the local authorities to notify SWM Bye- Laws under rule-15(zf) and accordingly, SWM Bye-Laws notified in Gazette vide reference No.:Addl.Comm/SWM/PR/G-/9266/2019-20, dated: 20.04.2020.
2. Chapter-VII states about duties of bulk waste generators.
3. The bye-law 20(1)(a&b)) and 21(2/3/4/5) of SWM Bye-Law 2020 states about identification of bulk waste generators and availing services of Authorized Waste Processors(AWPs) for scientific management of solid waste and domestic hazardous & sanitary waste.
4. The bye-law 21(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020 states about the intimation to be given to authority (BSWML) about availing the services of Authorized Waste Processors authorized by the concerned authority (BSWML).
5. Whereas, rule-4(3) of SWM Rules-2016 states about payment of user fees by waste generators as notified and also, rule-15(f) states about collection of user fees from waste generators.
6. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has also directed and stressed upon implementation of **"Polluter Pays Principle"** in its several judgment orders issued in OA No.:606/2018.
7. The Government of Karnataka notified user fee vide reference No.: UDD 500 MNY 2024(E), dated: 04.03.2025 in which maximum service charge for bulk waste management is capped at Rs.12/- per kg.
8. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited being an agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority in exercise of the powers conferred under section 272(1) of GBG Act 2024, SWM Bye-Laws 2020 and SWM Rules 2016; by following due diligence and strictly adhering to the transparent procedure, has empaneled **M/s Mukka Proteins Limited** as Authorized Waste Processor **(certificate no. 298031620230056214 9)** and mapped to the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas authorizing them to engage with the bulk waste generators to operate for collection, transportation, processing and disposal strictly in accordance with the SWM Rules-2016 and BBMP SWM Bye-Laws 2020.
9. It is notified for strict acknowledgment/adoption by all the bulk waste generators {as per bye law-20(1)} viz. residential/commercial/institutional/others in the jurisdiction of **Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas** to tie up with the **M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a subsidiary of M/s Mukka Proteins Limited-** an Authorized Waste Processor **(AWP certificate no. 298031620230056214 9)** with immediate effect for scientific management of bulk waste to be compliant and adhered to statutory rules/laws.
10. It is also, notified that none other than M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a subsidiary of **M/s Mukka Proteins Limited(AWP certificate no. 298031620230056214 9)** is/are authorized/empanelled as Authorized Waste Processor (AWP) of Greater Bengaluru Authority in the jurisdiction of **Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas.**
11. It is notified for information of all bulk waste generators in the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation along with cross boundary areas that any **non-compliance or if any, disposal through unauthorized operators will attract penalty in accordance with the SWM Bye Laws, Environmental Compensation in accordance with the CPCB Guidelines and action in accordance with the provisions of GBGA 2024.**
12. The Bulk Waste Generators shall submit annual return to BSWML as required in compliance to bye-law 14(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020.
13. If there is no authorized waste processor mapped/notified by BSWML/not available as per BSWML for management of bulk waste in other areas/corporations other than the jurisdiction of Bangalore North Municipal Corporation and Bangalore East Municipal Corporation including cross-boundary areas, of the Greater Bangalore Authority; or if bulk waste generator wishes, shall tie up with M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions – {A subsidiary of M/s Mukka Proteins Limited (C.N.: 298031620230056214 9)} to manage the bulk waste through a mutually agreed legal procedure. In no case, unauthorized disposal through unauthorized vendor is allowed. Green /Eco-friendly vehicles shall be deployed as far as possible.
14. The decision of Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (agency of GBA) is final in case of notification of authorized waste processor for management of bulk waste as per SWM bye Laws 2020.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

DIPR/CP/4493/SSC/2025-26

US court nod for Infosys data breach settlement

NEW DELHI, PTI: A US court has given its final approval for proposed settlement of class action lawsuits against Infosys McCamish, according to a BSE filing by Infosys on Saturday. Under the proposed terms, Infosys McCamish Systems has agreed to pay USD 17.5 million into a fund to settle all the pending class action lawsuits related to a cybersecurity incident in 2023.

Right to travel abroad, hold passport facets of personal liberty: SC

'Any restriction on that right must be fair, just and reasonable'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that whether a person who is on bail or facing trial may actually leave the country is a matter for the criminal court to decide, as it can grant or withhold permission, impose conditions, insist on undertakings, or refuse leave altogether.

However, to refuse renewal of a passport on the speculative apprehension that it might be misused is, in effect, to second-guess the criminal courts' assessment of risk and to assume, it added.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Augustine George Masih set aside the Calcutta High Court's judgments by the division and single bench that dismissed a plea by Mahesh Kumar Agrawal to renew his ordinary passport, expired on August 28, 2023.

The court directed the respondent authorities to re-issue an ordinary passport to the appellant for the normal period of 10 years from the date of issue, subject to compliance with the usual procedural requirements, within a period of four weeks.

In its judgment on December 19, 2025, the bench said that the right to travel abroad and the right to hold a passport are facets of the right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Any restriction on that right must be fair, just and reasonable, and should bear a rational nexus with a legitimate purpose.

"Liberty, in our constitutional scheme, is not a gift of the state but its first obligation. The freedom of a citizen to move, to travel, to pursue livelihood and opportunity, subject to law, is an essential part of the guarantee under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," the court added.

Agrawal, an industrialist, was convicted in a case related to the coal block allocation scam by a Delhi court, but the High Court suspended his four-year jail term. He was also on bail in a separate 2018 case filed by the NIA in Jharkhand's Chatra for alleged extortion, levy collection, and related activities in the coal mining areas and funding of a proscribed organisation. He obtained no objection from the respective courts to renew his passport, but the passport authorities in Kolkata denied the renewal. The high court also refused to interfere.

Innovative mobility devices help disabled live independent lives

Jennifer is an expert wheelchair peer trainer who helps people with disabilities navigate different terrains. DH PHOTO

CHENNAI, DHNS: M Jennifer, formerly a physical training teacher, was immobilised for about six years after a spinal cord injury from an accident in 2014.

A decade later, she now rides a 4-km distance from her house to the workplace at the IIT-M Research Park without anyone's help on her NeoBolt, an electric vehicle specially designed for wheelchair users.

"I don't depend on anyone to travel or go about my daily life. This vehicle has given me the freedom of mobility, from being bedridden to a wheelchair user to now riding a vehicle on my own," Jennifer said.

Jennifer is now an expert wheelchair peer trainer and trains people with disabilities in wheelchairs to navigate different terrains like villages and hilly areas.

Dr Manish Anand, assistant professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT-M, told *DH* that one of the fundamental evolutions in developing assistive devices is making prescription the standard criterion to ensure that devices are customised for individual users rather than mass-distributed generics.

"There were multiple challenges in getting these products to the needy in India, including wheelchairs being sold without any prescription. Also, the user is not the buyer. We are changing this through CSR dissemination, and we train and track the users long-term, to ensure the end users benefit and continue to use the devices," he added.

Ashish Jebin, Lead (R&D), R2D2, told *DH* that their approach is to make designs user-centric by catering to what the user needs while identifying the problem statements.

He added that even if someone is paralysed below the hip, the transfer-cum-mobility device, currently under development, provides an effective mobility solution. Primary users include the geriatric population, elderly citizens, and hospitals/clinics aiming to prevent falls and secondary injuries.

"Our approach ensures that whatever solution we create addresses the problem reliably. We don't just create something for the sake of it. We make it modular. Even if a person has already purchased a mechanical or push wheelchair, we convert it into an electric one through a clip-on device," he said.

Kerala SIR: Ex-MLA among 24.08 lakh removed from voter list

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Political parties have pointed out specific instances of genuine voters being among the 24,08,503 whose names were deleted from the voter list following the door-to-door enumeration of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Kerala that ended on Thursday.

Out of the 2.78 crore existing voters in the state, 8.65% are now out of the list for various reasons.

Participating in an all-party meeting convened by Kerala Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rathan Kelkar here on Saturday, senior CPM leader M V Jayarajan listed out specific instances of many genuine voters whose names were eliminated in the SIR process. He also pointed out that many SIR enumeration forms were not even distributed by the BLOs.

Meanwhile, CPI leader and former MLA Rajaji Mathew Thomas said he and his wife, who have cast their votes in many elections, were now out of the voter list.

Rajaji Mathew Thomas

"Though I filled the enumeration form, the booth-level officer (BLO) said it can't be linked with the 2002 voter list, which is being considered as the base one," he said at the meeting.

The authorities later clarified that their names had not been eliminated.

The CEO said all such cases could be sorted out during the complaint redressal phase of the SIR from December 23 to next year's January 22, and that there would also be an option for enrolling as a new voter.

Political parties' representatives lamented that many elderly persons were left out of the list and they would have to endure unnecessary hardships.

Isro tests drogue parachute for Gaganyaan crew module

E.T.B. SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In yet another preparatory test for Gaganyaan, the country's first human spaceflight programme, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed a series of qualification tests for drogue parachutes for the development of the deceleration system of the Gaganyaan crew module.

The tests were conducted at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, on December 18 and 19.

The deceleration system of the Gaganyaan crew module comprises a total of 10 parachutes of four types. The descent sequence begins with two apex cover separation parachutes that remove the protective cover of the parachute compartment, followed by two drogue parachutes that stabilise and decelerate the module.

A step closer

- Drogue parachutes are ingeniously designed to eject the parachutes into the air upon command
- They are part of the deceleration system of the Gaganyaan crew module
- They play a pivotal role in stabilising the crew module and reducing its velocity to a safe level during reentry
- The success of the tests marks another key step in qualifying the parachute system for human spaceflight.

Upon release of the drogues, three pilot parachutes are deployed to extract three main parachutes, which further slow down the crew module to ensure a safe touchdown, the Isro said.

A crucial component of this system is the deployment of drogue parachutes, which play a pivotal role in stabilising the crew module and also reducing its velocity to a safe level during reentry.

The objective of this specific test series was to rigorously evaluate the performance and reliability of the drogue parachutes under extreme conditions. Both RTRS tests on drogue parachutes were successfully conducted on December 18 and 19, achieving all test objectives and confirming their robustness even under significant variation in flight conditions.

The successful completion of these tests marks another significant step towards qualifying the parachute system for human spaceflight.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Dr V Narayanan had last week said that the mission will be launched in 2027 as scheduled, with the space agency successfully conducting over 8,000 experiments, including simulations for air quality, temperature control, waste management and emergency responses.

OBITUARY

Nirmala Balraj
11th Oct 1932 - 19th Dec 2025
Sunday 21-12-2025, viewing at 2pm at St Marks Cathedral, Bangalore, followed by funeral service at 2:30pm.

SAD DEMISE

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Aruldoss Dhinakaran
19th May, 1940 - 17th December, 2025
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Please join us for the
Funeral on 22nd December, 2025.
At, **Wesley Tamil Church,** Markham Rd, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025.
Viewing: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Thanksgiving Service: 10 a.m.
Followed by
burial at Hosur Cemetery Gate #1
His loving family,
Fredric Suresh, Rebecca Suresh, Cedin Fredric, Sunita Anand, Roshan Anand, Alisha Anand
(Husband of late Prema Dhinakaran and Father of late Dr. Vijay D. Anand)

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◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Dec 21: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28	10.2	00
Bidar	27.2	7.4	00
Vijayapura	28.4	6.9	00
Dharwad	27.8	9.2	00
Haveri	27.4	9.6	00
Kalaburagi	31.9	12.3	00
Raichur	29.2	8.8	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.1	18.5	00
Karwar	34	16.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33	19.4	00

INTERIOR SOUTH	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	10.8	00
Bengaluru	26.5	14.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	27.9	10.6	00
Davangere	28.5	8.5	00
Hassan	27.9	07	00
Mysuru	28	10.2	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.4	9.6	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	22.2	6.1	00
Kolkata	27.4	15.5	00
Mumbai	32.7	14.6	00
Chennai	29.6	20.2	00
Pune	29.6	8.1	00
Hyderabad	29.4	11.2	00
Th'puram	32.8	21.2	00

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, VENKATA LAKSHMI PRIYA CHITTIBOINA D/o Venkatarathnam Chittiboina R/at No.25, 6th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Kodipalya Kengeri Bengaluru- 560060 have changed my name to LAKSHMI PRIYA CHITTIBOINA HARISH vide affidavit dated: 18/12/2025 Before Notary Onkarappa N.R Bangalore.

I, NAGACHAITANYA CHEVULA D/o Ramanaiah Christaiah R/at No.25, 6th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Kodipalya Kengeri Bengaluru- 560060 have changed my name to NAGACHAITANYA RAMANAIAH CHEVULA HARISH vide affidavit dated: 18/12/2025 Before Notary Onkarappa N.R Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Prasath R,** residing at # 3466/26, 3rd Cross Road, 2nd Stage, 'C' Block, Gayathrinagar, Bengaluru - 560021, have changed our minor daughter's name from **RISHA. P** to **R. P. TARISHA**, vide affidavit dated: 19.12.2025 before notary Onkarappa N R, Bengaluru. Henceforth, she shall be called as **R. P. TARISHA** only.

I, RAJANNA GARI ARCHANA residing at Balenahalli Village, Dasarahalli Post, Koratagere Taluk, Tumkur District-572129 have changed my name to R ARCHANA vide affidavit dated 19/12/2025 sworn before notary K.M.Gopal, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINAYAK HAMPANNAVAR** residing at # 06, Sy. No. 18, Kalki Nilaya, Prakruthi Urban Ville layout, Panathur, Bengaluru-560087 have changed my name to **VINAYAK YALLAPPA HAMPANNAVAR** vide affidavit dated 20/12/2025, before notary S.I.Balaguru, Bengaluru.

I, KUMARI CHITTIBOINA W/o Venkataratnam Chittiboina R/at No.25, 6th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Kodipalya Kengeri Bengaluru- 560060 have changed my name to KUMARI CHITIBOINA HARISH vide affidavit dated: 18/12/2025 Before Notary Onkarappa N.R Bangalore.

I, VENKATA HEMANTH CHITTIBOINA S/o Venkataratnam Chittiboina R/at No.25, 6th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Kodipalya Kengeri Bengaluru- 560060 have changed my name to HEMANTH CHITTIBOINA HARISH vide affidavit dated: 18/12/2025 Before Notary Onkarappa N.R Bangalore

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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE FAMILY COURT, TRICHY
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Mahendran, S/o Dhevaraj, No-407, Pandiyan Street, Kamarajar Nagar, Airport, Trichy.
...Petitioner
VS
Mehana, D/o Renu Kavundar, No-E-355, Aasraiyar Barange, Pommankatte, Shimoha, Vinoba Nagar, Karnataka.
...Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
Please take notice that my clients Mahendran Son of Dhevaraj have filed a Divorce Petition against you. On the file of Hon'ble Family Court, Thiruchirappalli in H.M.O.P.No. 104/2024 and the same is posted to for your appearance. As per the order of the Hon'ble court this notice is issued and you are hereby called upon to appear before the Hon'ble Family Court, Thiruchirappalli on 12.01.2026 either in person or through a counsel, failing which the matter will be decided exparte in your absence.
T.A. OMPRAKASH & P.SHEELA
Advocates
Thiruchirapalli

POLITICAL PUSH Pankaj Chaudhary is considered close to Modi, was praised by Shah

UP BJP chief pick signals OBC recalibration after 2024 losses

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Newly-appointed Uttar Pradesh BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary, who is also the Union minister of state for finance, owns a company that manufactures an Ayurvedic oil whose brand name means something that relieves the body and the mind.

A "Kurmi" (an electorally influential OBC community), Chaudhary has been appointed the party's state unit chief to provide electoral relief to it in this politically crucial state, which sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha and ruined the BJP's electoral plans in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections — mainly due to the rival Samajwadi Party (SP)'s "PDA" (pichda, Dalit, alpsankhyak, or backward, Dalit, and minority) formula.

The BJP's tally in the state in the 2024 polls declined to 33 from 62 in the 2019 elections. The SP, which could win only five seats in the 2019 polls, swept up 37 in 2024. The BJP even lost its traditional Ayodhya seat in 2024, causing it huge humiliation.

Overall, SP candidates fared better in several OBC-dominated seats in eastern UP.

A bruised BJP feels that Chaudhary, being a member of the Kurmi community, which has a sizeable presence in several eastern UP districts, could counter the SP's "PDA" formula, especially in the state's "Poorvanchal" region, where it commands a dominance in as many as 20 Lok Sabha seats.

After Sanotsh Gangwar's appointment as the Governor of Jharkhand, the BJP was left with no senior Kurmi leader; Chaudhary's anointment is expected to fill that gap.

Born on November 20, 1964, to a reputed industrial family, Chaudhary — a seven-time MP from the Maharajganj seat — completed his initial studies from a college in the neighbouring Gorakhpur town. He was also a student at Gorakhpur University.

Chaudhary and his family dominated the local body polls in the Maharajganj district. His elder brother, Pradeep Chaudhary, was the first chairman of the Maharajganj district panchayat, when it was formed. His mother was also a two-time chairperson of the district panchayat.

Chaudhary began his political career as a corporator in the Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation (GMC) in 1989. He was also the deputy mayor of the GMC for a brief period. He became a member of the BJP's Maharajganj district executive committee in 1990 and successfully contested the Lok Sabha poll from the Maharajganj seat in 1991.

Chaudhary was re-elected from the same seat in 1996 and 1998, but lost to the SP candidate in 1999. He won back the seat in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls. He, however, tasted defeat at the hands of the Congress' Harshvardhan Singh in the 2009 polls.

Riding the Narendra Modi wave, Chaudhary emerged winner from Maharajganj again in 2014, and has been an MP from there since then. He was made a minister in 2019 and again in 2024.

Chaudhary is considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Modi even visited his residence during a Gorakhpur visit in 2023. Meanwhile, Shah heaped praise on Chaudhary during a public meeting in 2024.

Despite his proximity to the BJP high command, Chaudhary, according to party sources, faced opposition from within when his name was floated for the post of the state unit chief. A section of the party leaders, especially those from western UP, wanted someone from their region to be the state unit president.

They contended that currently, all top UP BJP functionaries hailed from Poorvanchal. Chief Minister Adityanath hails from Gorakhpur, and his two deputies — Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brijesh Pathak — hail from the eastern UP and Avadh regions, respectively.

Chaudhary faces an arduous task of not only ensuring support of the Kurmi community but also carrying along the party leaders hailing from the western region.

Interestingly, the BJP's alliance partner in UP, the Apna Dal (AD), was also a predominantly Kurmi outfit and has pockets of influence in the eastern UP districts of Varanasi, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, and Kaushambi. It will be interesting to see how the AD is going to view the saffron party's efforts to make inroads into its core vote bank.

Chaudhary's immediate test will be in the next Assembly polls in the state, which are due in 2027. He would also have to deal with unpredictable alliance partners like the Nishad Party and the Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party. Both Rajbhar and Nishad Party chief and UP minister Sanjay Nishad have already started upping the ante by demanding more seats in the next UP Assembly polls.

It remains to be seen if Chaudhary brings electoral relief to his party.

BJP's Kurmi calculus

1. Pankaj Chaudhary hails from the Kurmi community, a key electoral group in Eastern UP.
2. Chaudhary is seen as a potential successor to fill the leadership void left by Santosh Gangwar, who was appointed Governor of Jharkhand.
3. His challenge is twofold: securing Kurmi support while also maintaining unity with party leaders from Western UP.
4. Apna Dal, BJP's alliance partner in UP, is also predominantly Kurmi, adding complexity to alliance dynamics.
5. The BJP's efforts to expand into Apna Dal's core Kurmi voter base could reshape their alliance and impact future elections.

Pankaj Chaudhary

PM targets TMC's 'maha jungle raj'

KOLKATA, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for an end to the 'maha jungle raj' by the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, accusing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party of opposing the electoral roll revisions to protect 'infiltrators'.

Narendra Modi

Addressing a rally at Taherpur in Nadia over the phone from Kolkata on Saturday, the PM urged the people of West Bengal to vote for the BJP in the Assembly elections and allow the saffron party to form a "double engine government", which would take stern actions against the infiltrators.

However, the TMC criticised the BJP for creating "hysteria around illegal infiltration".

As his chopper could not land at the helipad near the venue of the rally, Modi addressed the people over the phone from the airport in Kolkata. "I appeal to the people of Bengal to give the BJP a chance to form a double-engine government, which will ensure development at double the speed," the PM said.

"We will end TMC's 'maha jungle raj', where corruption, nepotism, and appeasement politics are ruling the roost," he said, after starting his address with the "Joy Nitai" slogan, invoking the 15th-century saint of the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition.

He said that the BJP's victory in Bihar opened up the avenues for the party to have similar success in West Bengal because "the Ganga flows into Bengal from Bihar".

The venue of the rally was in a region with many Assembly constituencies, which have sizeable populations of the Matuas—a community seen by both the BJP and the TMC as a potential vote bank.

However, the SIR of the electoral rolls has triggered concerns among the Matuas.

"I assure every Matua and Namashudra family that we will always serve them. They have the right to live in India with dignity thanks to the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act). We will do even more for the Matua and Namashudra communities once a BJP government takes oath in the state," the PM said, apparently trying to allay their concerns.

CBI arrests Lt Col in bribery case, seizes Rs 2.23 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: The CBI on Saturday arrested Lt Col Deepak Kumar Sharma, posted in the Department of Defence Production under the Defence Ministry, for allegedly taking Rs 3 lakh in bribe from a Bengaluru-based company, officials said.

During searches at the premises of the Sharma, the CBI seized Rs 2.23 crore cash.

The CBI had registered the case against Sharma, Deputy Planning Officer, International Cooperation and Exports, Department of Defence Productions and his wife, Col. Kajal Bali, CO, 16 Infantry Division Ordnance Unit (DOU), Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.

It was alleged that Sharma "habitually indulges in corrupt and illegal activities" in criminal conspiracy with representatives of various private companies dealing in defence products manufacturing, export, etc, the CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

Sharma obtained bribes from companies in exchange for providing undue favours to them, the agency alleged.

VB-G RAM G a 'black law': Sonia Gandhi

Says it attacks interests of farmers & landless rural poor

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sonia Gandhi

Accusing the Modi government of "bulldozing" MGNREGA to bring in VB-G RAM G "without consensus," top Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday vowed to fight the "black law" with lakhs of party workers, claiming that it has attacked the interests of crores of farmers, workers and the landless rural poor of the country.

In a video message, she recalled that the MGNREGA was passed by the Manmohan Singh government in Parliament 20 years ago after arriving at a consensus, and the "revolutionary step" became a "source of livelihood" benefitted crores of rural families, especially the deprived, exploited, poor and extremely poor.

Emphasising that MGNREGA was a "concrete step" to realise Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'Gram Swaraj', she said the scheme put a check on forced migration, where people had to leave their villages and families in search of work, while giving the legal right to employment and strengthening gram panchayats.

"Over the past 11 years, the Modi government has made every attempt to weaken MGNREGA by ignoring the interests of the unemployed, the poor and the deprived in rural areas, even though during the Covid period it proved to be a lifeline for the poor," she said.

'Arbitrary removal'

"But it is extremely unfortunate that recently the government has bulldozed MGNREGA. Not only was Mahatma Gandhi's name removed, but the very form and structure of MGNREGA was arbitrarily changed—without any discussion, without consultation, and without taking the opposition into confidence," she said.

A Union government "far removed from ground realities" will now decide on who will get how much work, where and in what manner, she said, adding the Congress had a major role in implementing MGNREGA, but it never treated it as a party-linked issue, but a scheme connected to national interest and public welfare.

The Congress has announced nationwide protests against 'Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill 2025'.

West Bengal renames 'Karmashree' as 'Mahatmashree'

The West Bengal government on Saturday issued a notification stating that its 100-day employment scheme, Karmashree, will be renamed 'Mahatmashree' from the next financial year. The notification was issued after Governor C V Ananda Bose gave his assent.

"The renaming not only preserves the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, but also aligns our state programme with the spirit of public welfare," a senior state official said.

Nuclear Bill 'bulldozed' to help Modi restore peace with Trump: Congress

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Congress on Saturday alleged that the SHANTI Bill was "bulldozed" in Parliament only to help Prime Minister Narendra Modi "restore SHANTI" with his "once good friend".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the SHANTI Bill does away with key provisions of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, a concern raised in the United States' National Defence Authorisation Act for 2026.

Stating that US President Donald Trump has just signed the National Defence Authorisation Act for the US fiscal year 2026, Ramesh said in a post on X, "The Act is 3,100 pages long. Page 1,912 has a reference to the joint assessment between the United States and India on Nuclear Liability Rules."

"Now we know for sure why the Prime Minister bulldozed the SHANTI Bill through Parliament earlier this week that, among other things, did away with key provisions of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, that had been passed unanimously by Parliament.

Jairam Ramesh

"It was to restore SHANTI with his once good friend," the Congress leader said.

"The SHANTI Act may well be called the TRUMP Act - The Reactor Use and Management Promise Act," Ramesh claimed.

The US Act on page 1,912 has a section under the heading 'Joint assessment between the United States and India on Nuclear liability rules'.

It says: "The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish and maintain within the US-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Government of the Republic of India that convenes on a recurring basis –

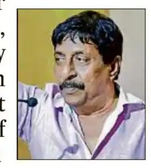
"(A) to assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington, October 10, 2008 (TIAS 08–1206);

"(B) to discuss opportunities for the Republic of India to align domestic nuclear liability rules with global norms;

(C) to develop a strategy for the US and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements."

Malayalam actor, scriptwriter Sreenivasan dies at 69

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Renowned Malayalam actor, director and scriptwriter Sreenivasan, passed away in Kochi on Saturday at the age of 69. Known for his sharp political satire and socially relevant storytelling, he leaves behind a rich legacy of impactful cinema.


Sreenivasan

Sreenivasan, who had been battling health issues for the past few years, developed breathing difficulties while travelling to a private hospital for dialysis and was shifted to a government hospital, where he died around 8.30 am.

He is survived by his wife, Vimala, and sons Vineeth Sreenivasan and Dhyan Sreenivasan, both prominent figures in the Malayalam film industry. The funeral will be held on Sunday.

Often described as Malayalam cinema's "Sakalakalavallabhan", Sreenivasan made his acting debut with Manimuzhakam in 1976. Over a career spanning five decades, he acted in more than 200 films and wrote stories and screenplays for numerous acclaimed movies. His honours include a National Award for Best Film on Social Issues for Chinthavishtayaya Shyamala and six Kerala State Film Awards.

Direction for time-bound probe is exception, not norm: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that directing time-bound investigations should be the exception rather than the norm, as courts must respect the practical realities of investigation and intervene only when the delay threatens fairness, liberty, or the integrity of the criminal justice system.

The court emphasised that an investigation was a product of many factors and happenings, apart from the crime itself, which lent it a sense of uncertainty.

The law, therefore, accorded investigating agencies a reasonable degree of latitude. At the same time, the Constitution did not permit investigations to remain open-ended, it pointed out.

"Where there is evident stagnation, unexplained inaction, or a pattern of delay that cannot be justified by the nature or complexity of the case, judicial directions fixing timelines have been considered warranted," the court said.

It highlighted that a speedy trial, which necessarily includes a timely and diligent investigation, has been recognised as an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution and was essential to the fairness and credibility of the criminal justice system.

"Courts have also been mindful of the impact of prolonged investigation on personal liberty, particularly where coercive measures or extended custody are involved. In such cases, fixing timelines is viewed not as an intrusion into the investigative domain, but as a safeguard against inertia and arbitrariness," it said.

The court pointed out that at the same time, the SC had cautioned against routine or mechanical directions for a time-bound investigation.

SPIRITUAL SHOWCASE

Tirupati to get 1,400-acre township on Hinduism & Hindutva

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The temple town of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh will get a 1,400-acre integrated township development featuring the world's first 5,000-year living exhibition on Hinduism and Hindutva.

Conceptualised by the founder of the Della Group, Jimmy Mistry, the ambitious project aims to establish a long-term cultural institution that documents the depth and authenticity of Hindu civilisation.

At the heart of the development lies a 300-acre living exhibition comprising 25 immersive pavilions, each spread over one lakh square feet.

These pavilions will collectively present India's civilisational journey, from the Indus Valley era to contemporary Hinduism, thought through experiential storytelling.

The exhibition will explore a wide spectrum of themes, including Vedic knowledge systems, philosophy, classical arts, temple architecture, ritual practices, and regional traditions.

Every state and Union Territory will be invited to participate and co-create their respective pavilions, making the initiative a truly collaborative national effort to celebrate and preserve India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

"At the core of this vision is a comprehensive effort to document and interpret India's philosophical traditions, rituals, and civilisational continuity. It draws from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Shastra-based wisdom, while also capturing regional traditions, sects, and sub-sects," said a government official.

Della Group had recently signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to develop the integrated township — Della Vasudaiva Kutumbakam International Township.

"This MoU marks the beginning of a historic movement to document and celebrate India's 5,000-year civilisational journey," said Jimmy Mistry.

Temple in Assam

Aimed at strengthening the spiritual landscape of the Northeastern region, the Assam Government has decided to allot 25 acres of land in Guwahati for the construction of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Divya Kshetram, a rise from the earlier allocation of 10.8 acres. The decision follows correspondence between the chief ministers of Assam and Andhra Pradesh, reflecting growing inter-state cooperation in promoting religious and cultural projects.

Indian cyber agency flags WhatsApp 'hijack' threat

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has flagged a sophisticated cyber threat targeting WhatsApp users, naming it "GhostPairing".

Rated as "high severity", this attack abuses the platform's device-linking capability to gain unauthorised, full access to accounts, said a CERT-In advisory on Friday night. "Malicious actors are exploiting WhatsApp's device-linking feature to hijack accounts using pairing codes without authentication," it said.

"This newly identified cyber campaign called GhostPairing enables cyber criminals to take complete control of WhatsApp accounts without needing a password or SIM swaps," the advisory said.

Unlike traditional hacks requiring stolen credentials, GhostPairing relies on deception. The attack campaign usually begins with the victim receiving a message like "Hi, check this photo" from a trusted contact.

The message contains a link with a Facebook-style preview. The link leads to a fake Facebook viewer that prompts users to "verify" to see the content. Here, the attackers exploit WhatsApp's "link device via phone number" feature by tricking unsuspecting users into entering their phone numbers, said the advisory. This way, victims unknowingly grant the attackers full access to their WhatsApp accounts.

The attack tricks users into granting an attacker browser access by using a pairing code that looks authentic.

The advisory said that once attackers link their device, they get access similar to WhatsApp Web. Attackers can then monitor ongoing conversations, view shared media, and impersonate the user.

Nitish hijab row: Doctor yet to join duty

PATNA, PTI: A woman doctor whose naqab was removed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during an appointment letter distribution programme earlier this week is yet to join duty, an official said on Saturday. Today is the last day of her joining, but the government may consider extending the date as a special case, Government Tibbi College & Hospital Principal Mahfoozur Rahman said.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY N.H.169 AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,

KUNDAPURA SUB-DIVISION, KUNDAPURA

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of the powers under section 3D (1) and (2) of National Highways Act 1956 (48 of 1956) (herein after referred to as the said Act) With it amendment from time to time, the Central Government vide their Gazette Notification 1601 (E) Dated:02 April 2025 have required the lands indicated in the schedule hereunder for widening of National Highway No:169 in the stretch of land from K.M.153.00 to 168.270 (Malagate to Karkala Section) in district Udupi in the state of Karnataka.

Under the provisions of Sub-Section (1),(2),(3) and (4) of section 3G of the said Act the public notice is hereby issued to the land owners and interested persons in such land to appear in person or by an agent or by a legal practitioner on the following date and time before the Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority N.H.169 and Assistant Commissioner, Kudapura Sub-division Kundapura and to state the nature of their respective Interest in such land along with the copies of the documents such as 1) Original records 2) Sale/Partition/Other deeds of title 3) R.T.Cs 4) Copy of mutation register 5) Khatha extract issued by local body. 6) Encumbrance certificate and any other relevant document.

Sl.No.	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Date, Time & Place
1	Karkala	1) Mala 2) Miyaru 3) Mudaru 4) Karkala 5) Sanooru	05.01.2026 (11.00 am) Assistant commissioner Office Kundapura

Sd/-
Rashmi S.R, K.A.S
Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority N.H.169 and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub-division Kundapura

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 09th December, 2025

S.O. 5719(E).— Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **1601 (E) Dated:02/04/2025**, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub- section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening two lane with paved shoulders / four laning etc,) Maintenance, management and operation of NH169 in the stretch of land from Km. 153.00 to Km. 168.270 (Malagate to Karkala Section) in the district of UDUPI in the state of KARNATAKA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Deccan Herald" dated 12/04/2025 , "Udayavani" dated 12/04/2025 ; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Km. 153.00 to Km. 168.270 (Malagate to Karkala Section) of NH169 in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA **District: UDUPI**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person
Taluk: Karkala (T)					
Village: Mala					
1	214/1	Private	Dry	0.089	Sudhakar Naik S/o Obaiah Naik
2	214/11	Private	Dry	0.0445	Sanjeeva Hegde S/o Babanna Hegde
3	214/14	Private	Dry	0.0243	Joy Kolencheri Osef S/o K A Osef
4	214/17	Private	Dry	0.0051	Jalajakshi Nayak, Harisha, Harini, Ashwini & Other Intersted Persons Karkala PICAS Bank
5	214/2	Government	Dry	0.1094	Government
6	214/9	Private	Dry	0.0081	Jackobh Xeaviyar S/o K M Chacko
7	216/1	Private	Dry	0.0383	Baabu Devadiga, Sumathi Deavadiga, Shwetha, Sharath, Seema, Somayya Devadiga
8	393/2	Private	Dry	0.0243	Jalajakshi Nayak, Harisha, Harini, Ashwini & Other Intersted Persons Mala Kervashe VSS Ltd. Mala
9	393/4	Private	NAK	0.0648	Maithili Yaane Ranjitha Dongre, Vignesh Dongre, Parvarthi Dongre, Other Intersted Persons Karkala PICAS Bank
10	430/11	Private	Dry	0.0101	Rajendra Prabhu AliasYaane Raghvendra Prabhu S/o Subbraya Prabhu, Other Intersted Persons Syndicate Bank, Bajagoli
11	438/2	Private	Dry	0.002	Jayashree Nayak, Kusuma Nayak, Sowmya Nayak, Sachin P Nayak, Other Intersted Persons SCDCC Bank, Mala Kervashe.
12	510/1	Private	NAK	0.0162	Vasanthi , Sujatha ,Rajesha , Sunitha (As per SRT 510/15)
13	510/4	Private	Dry	0.0071	Smt. Sumathi
14	510/5	Private	Dry	0.0243	Smt. Prema
15	510/6	Private	Dry	0.0283	Smt. Sumathi, Smt. Prema
16	63/1	Private	Wet	0.0031	Babu Devadiga, Ashok Devadiga, Shantha Devadiga, Sumathi Devadiga, Shwetha, Sharath, Seema
17	64/1A	Private	Wet	0.0021	Sadhu Hegde, Anni, Somavathi, Narayana, Preethi, Shwetha, Sruthi, Akshatha, Sujatha, Raksha Hegde, Prathiksha Hegde
18	64/2A2	Private	Wet	0.0182	Sanjeeva Hegde S/o Babanna Hegde,Sadhu Hegde, Anni Somavathi, Narayana, Preethi, Shruthi, Shwetha, Akshatha, Sujatha, Raksha Hegde
19	64/2B1	Private	Wet	0.0182	Prashanth Hegde, Other Intersted Persons Sri Jyothi Credit Co operative Society, Mala Kervashe VSS Ltd., SCDCC Bank Mala Kervashe.
20	64/2B2	Private	Wet	0.0324	Maithili Yaane Ranjitha Dongre, Vignesh Dongre, Other Intersted Persons Karkala PICAS Bank
21	64/5A1	Private	Dry	0.0405	Sadhu Hegde, Anni, Somavathi, Narayana, Preethi, Shruthi, Shwetha, Akshatha, Sujatha, Raksha Hegde, Prathiksha Hegde
22	64/5A2	Private	Dry	0.0102	Joy Kolencheri Osef S/o K A Osef
23	64/5B	Private	Dry	0.0151	Babanna Hegde S/o Thimmaiah Hegde, Prashanth Hegde, Mala Kervashe VSS Ltd., SCDCC Bank Mala Kervashe.
24	64/6	Private	Wet	0.0192	Babanna Hegde S/o Thimmaiah Hegde, Prashanth Hegde, Intrested Person Mala Kervashe VSS Ltd., SCDCC Bank Mala Kervashe.
Village: Miyaru					
25	125/1B1	Private	Wet	0.0263	Subhashchandra Padiwal S/o Rathnavathi Heenappadi, Sanooru VSS Ltd.,
26	125/1C1	Private	Wet	0.0444	Jeenaraj Padiwal
27	257/ (1A1B2)	Private	Dry	0.0091	Gulabi M Poojari W/o Mahabala Poojari 257/1A1B1
28	257/1E	Private	NAK	0.0101	Shobha U Rao W/o Umesha Rao
29	257/4	Private	NAK	0.0111	Vinet Plavia Casthalino (As per SRT 257/5)
30	32/2A2	Private	Dry	0.0202	K Manjunath Nayak, K Ramanath Nayak, Other Intrested Person Post Master Dore Swamy Superintendent, Puttur.
31	32/3	Private	NAK	0.0071	Laveena V Norennha
32	40/5A1	Private	Dry	0.004	M Sathish Kamath
33	59/D2	Private	Dry	0.0142	Nandu Shetty, Chalageni Anthony Mascarenhas
34	63/13	Private	Garden	0.0041	Jagadish
35	63/44	Private	Garden	0.0071	Ramesh Rao
36	63/45	Private	Garden	0.009	Geetha
37	65/1B	Private	Dry	0.0607	Jamiya Maseedi Miyaru
38	66/16	Private	Wet	0.0364	Saint Domenic Egarji Deavru
39	66/19	Private	Wet	0.0081	Smt. Lilly D soza W/o Bensikwera Chruch Compound
40	66/2C	Private	Wet	0.0263	Ananda S/o Chandu Mulya (As per SRT 66/21 - 162 SQM), Anthony Minejus S/o Kashmir Minejus, Ananda S/o Chandu Mulya, Tejpal M Jena Gowda S/o Jyohti Tejapal jena Gowda , Stalnly Luyies Menejus (As per SRT 66/2C - 101 SQM)
41	66/3A	Private	NAK	0.0111	Ananda
42	66/7A	Private	NAK	0.0121	Ananda, Anthony Menezes
43	66/7C	Private	Dry	0.0121	Alis Santha Mejore S/o Deniya Santha Mejore Rosevilla Jyothinagar
44	68/1A3	Private	Wet	0.0051	Baabu raya Nayak, Sumithra Pai, Rathnabayee, Srinvas Nayak, Venkatesh Nayak, Panduranga Nayak, Manujnath Nayak, Saroojini yaane Nirmala kamath, Saraswathi Nayak, Nalini yaane Anuradha, Seetharama Nayak, Sudha N Shenoy, Sandya More, Vrunda Nayak
45	68/1B3	Private	Wet	0.012	Baaburaya Nayak, Sumithra Pai, Rathna Bayee, Srinvas Nayak, Venkatesh Nayak, Panduranga Nayak, Manujnath Nayak, Saroojini yaane Nirmala kamath, Saraswathi Nayak, Nalini yaane Anuradha, Seetharama Nayak, Sudha N Shenoy, Sandya More, Vrunda Nayak
46	68/7A2	Private	NAK	0.0607	Ramesh Shetty S/o Vittal Shetty
47	68/7C	Private	Wet	0.004	Pelix Mathayas S/o Saalwadore Mathayas
48	69/11A	Private	Dry	0.0041	Chandrakala, Vijay, Nirmala, Anandaraya Kamath, Vidhadhar Kamath, Aruna, Chithra
49	69/11C	Private	Dry	0.0182	Chandrakala, Vijay, Nirmala, Anandaraya Kamath, Vidhadhar Kamath, Aruna, Chithra
50	69/19	Private	Dry	0.1943	Raziya baanu, Amanulla khan, Ambruth khan, Farzana Begum, Suhana Begum
51	69/22	Private	Dry	0.0071	Baby Jaan
52	69/26	Private	Dry	0.001	Sayeera baanu D/o Imam Saheb
53	69/27	Private	Dry	0.0061	Mumthaz D/o Imam Saheb
54	69/29	Private	Dry	0.0031	Shariphambi, Mohmad Sharief, Other Intersted Persons Rajapur Saraswath Co operative Bank, Bajagoli
55	69/35	Private	Garden	0.0021	Panduranga V Nayak
56	69/4A	Private	Wet	0.012	H Vittal Pai, Goplakrishna Nayak, Tulsi amma
57	69/4C	Private	Wet	0.0041	H Vittal Pai, Goplakrishna Nayak, Tulsi amma
58	69/7C	Private	Wet	0.0526	Vijay Nayak, Mohan Kamath, Ekanath Kamath, Malathi Pai, Madhav Kamath, Sumana Shenoy, Rajini Kamath, Ganesh Kamath
59	69/8C	Private	Wet	0.0607	H Vittal Pai, Goplakrishna Nayak S/o Sadanada Nayak
Village: Mudaru					
60	156/3A	Private	NAK	0.0364	Thomas Dcunha
61	176/16	Private	Dry	0.0101	C.M. Joy S/o G G Maical
62	219/1A	Private	Dry	0.0181	Rathna Shedthi W/o Sundara Shetty, Mudura Poojari S/o Monu hengsu thirithottu Mudaru, Smt. Lavina W/o Sadashiva Poojari, Premalatha Veerendra Shetty, Jayashree, Prakash Sundar Shetty, Deepak Sundar Shetty
63	219/1B1	Private	Dry	0.0405	Gulabi, Chandru, Sarasi Mudaru
64	227/ 1A1C1	Private	Dry	0.0364	Prakash Madiwala S/o Shantha, Harshvardhan V S/o Vasanth Kumar, Other Intersted Persons Mala Kervashe VSS Ltd. Mala
65	229/1A7	Private	NAK	0.0101	M C Krishna Shetty, Revathi N Raj, Malathi, Sunitha Alias Sujatha, Mallika 229/7 - 60 SQM), Bhujanga Bandari S/o Thimmayya Bhandari (229/8 - 41 SQM) Other Intersted Persons Rajapur Saraswath Co operative Bank, Bajagoli
66	229/3A1	Private	Dry	0.002	Yasmin N Shek W/o Nasir Ahamad
67	23/2A1	Private	Wet	0.0263	Subbayya Shasthri S/o Devu Kudre, Rathidevi W/o Nabhuraja Padivala, Ramanna Nayak, Sadanda Nayak, Savitha Nayak, Sandeep Nayak, Ashwini Nayak, Asha Nayak, Appi Poojarthi, Chandru Poojari, Lalitha Poojarthi, Sulochana Poojarthi, Yamuna Poojarthi, Praveena Poojari, Sunitha, Jagadish Poojari, Ashok Poojari, Anitha, Raghupathi Parabhu S/o Upendra Prabhu, Chalugeni Teekayya Moolya S/o Monappa Moolya.
68	244/2A	Private	Dry	0.0749	Gulabi, Chandru, Sarsi, Government
69	244/4	Private	Dry	0.0081	B Fathima, Ismail, Shekabba, Abdul Khadar, Abdul Bashir
70	321/5	Private	Dry	0.0445	Asha Jos D/o Jos Vargis, Fedaral Bank Karkala
71	346/2A	Private	Dry	0.0202	Dharmapal Indra S/o Bhramaiah Indra, M Nirvana Indra, Shree Rathna
72	346/4	Private	Dry	0.0101	Prema, Nayana Kumari, Harshendra, Aparajitha, Arinjayaya
73	399/3	Private	Dry	0.0161	K Parabhakar Mudaru, Seetharam Shetty S/o deju Shetty Kadari, Government, Boggu Koraga S/o Taniya, Lalitha Acharthi W/o Anathaiah Achari, Narayana Koraga S/o Bunnu Kadari, Amith Anand banana S/o Ananda Banana, Raaju Shetty S/o Baabu Shetty, Shalini Nayak W/o Raju Nayak, Suresh Achari S/o Sheela Acharthi, Sunadari W/o Kundu Koraga, Other Interested persons Government of Karnataka, Rajapur Saraswath Co operative Bank, Bajagoli, Rajeeva Gandhi Grameena Vasathi Nigama.
74	400/2A1	Private	Dry	0.0243	Vishwanatha Prabhu S/o Upendra Prabhu Kadari, SCDCC Bank, Mala Kervashe VSS Ltd., BDO Bank
75	400/2A2	Private	Dry	0.0334	Charls Yaane Cahrli, Maskrenus S/o Fracis Maskrenus
76	400/2A3	Private	Dry	0.0466	V. Mohan S/o O P Vaasu
77	400/2A4	Private	Dry	0.0182	Manjula P Hegde W/o Prakash Hegde
78	400/2A5	Private	NAK	0.0187	Shubhalakshmi Prabhu, Guruprasad Prabhu, Megha Pai
79	400/2A6	Private	NAK	0.0162	K Vishwanath Prabhu S/o Upendra Prabhu (As per SRT 400/10)
80	400/3	Private	Dry	0.0352	Pascal DSouza S/o Devid DSouza
81	403/1A3	Private	Dry	0.3602	Lakshmimathi nemi W/o Raja Hegde, Seetharam Shetty S/o Deju Shetty Mala Other Interested persons Syndicate Bank.
82	403/4	Private	Dry	0.0121	Seetharam Shetty S/o Deju Shetty Mala
83	46/1A1	Private	NAK	0.0446	Udupi Food Park - John Richard Desilva

1	2	3	4	5	6
84	46/2A	Private	NAK	0.2064	Udupi Food Park - John Richard Desilva
85	47/3A1	Private	Dry	0.0091	Shambha S Shedthi W/o Sundara Shetty, Sathish Naik S/o Ramaiah Naik
86	47/3A2	Private	Dry	0.0051	Shambha S Shedthi W/o Sundara Shetty, Sathish Naik S/o Ramaiah Naik
87	47/3B	Private	Dry	0.0031	Smt. Sumnaji W/o Subhashchandra Jain
88	50/1C1	Private	Dry	0.1214	Dinesh Shetty, Shayma Shetty, Shayma Shetty S/o Nandu Shetty, Saroojini Shetty, Vanitha Shetty, Suresh Shetty, Vasantha Shetty (As per JMC 50/1C)
89	50/37	Private	Dry	0.0344	Shayma Shetty S/o Nandu Shetty
90	50/38	Private	Dry	0.0172	Dinesh Shetty S/o Nandu Shetty
91	50/42	Private	Wet	0.0405	Shayma Shetty S/o Nandu Shetty
92	50/8A3	Private	Dry	0.0243	Dinesh Shetty S/o Nandu Shetty, Shayma Shetty S/o Nandu Shetty
93	70/2A	Private	Dry	0.2024	Gulabi, Chandru, Sarasu
94	71/13	Private	Wet	0.0141	Aparajitha Indra S/o Jeenaraja Indra
Village: Karkala					
95	363/2	Common (Governmet /Private)	Dry	0.0101	Government, B Krishnamurthy Thellaru, Vijaya Bank Karkala
96	585/2B	Private	Dry	0.0263	T Sudhakar Prabhu, Other Interested Person Canara Bank Karkala
Village: Sanooru					
97	165/3	Private	Wet	0.0324	Lourens Dominic pinto, Maichel pinto, Christin Ida seravo, Veronica tellis, Margaret pinto, Grecy pinto, Ciciliya Koreya, Irin Christin Machado W/o francis machodo, K Nithyanand Acharya S/o Baabu Acharya, Meri perera W/o John perera, Other Interested Person Rajapur Saraswath Co operative Bank Karkala (As per JMC 165/3A)
98	165/ 5A1	Private	Dry	0.0931	Zakir husen S/o Hasan saheb Anjalgudde, Lorens Dominic pinto S/o , Luvis Pinto, Peter Farnandiz S/o Cleiver Farnandiz, Alis Farnandiz W/o Peter Farnandiz, Melvin Dolfi Minezus S/o Rejinald Minezus, Helen Minezus
					W/o Melwin Dolfi minezus, Dolfi Minezes, Refiail DSouza, Lesly DSouza, Lorens Dominic pinto, Michel pinto, Christina Ida Seravo, Veronica tellisa, Margaret pinto, Grecy pinto, Ciciliya Koreya, Clotilada DSouza, Hilda DSouza, Carel Shina DSouza, Coastan Shan Dsouza, Candida Shima Dsouza, Other Interested Person PLD Bank Karkala
99	165/5B	Common (Governmet/ Private)	Dry	0.0051	Geetha G Hegde W/o B Ganapathi Hegde, Pathayath Nazeer Husen S/o P Mohamad Usman, Veleriyan Mendonz S/o Gilwart Mendonz, Hilla Saanthamejor W/o Villiam Saanthamejor, John Kruz Piyad lobo, Pristiya Kardoza yaane pristiya lobo, Shivaram Hegde S/o Bhrammaiah Hegde, Vinay Poojarthi W/o Baabu poojari, Mohamad Ashraf Faroki, Aruna Vasudev Shenoy, Sujatha Surendra Pai, B Ganapathi hedge S/o Ankadi Lakshman Hegde, K V Shanthamma W/o Shankar nayar, Abubkar S/o Hayath saheb, Lalitha, Santhosh kumar, Sangeetha, savitha, Elliyamma O T W/o K P Josph, Bashir saheb, Powjiya banu, Mansur, Farzanan baanu, Peter Farnandiz, Alis Farnandiz, Mubina Mohamad hussen S/o Mohamad hussen, Shek Mohamad S/o Shek Abdul Razak, Nazumunnisa W/o S A Sathar, Lancy norenna S/o Jokim norenna, Aliz Farnandiz, Mubina mohamad Husen, Kaswa, Veronica Tellis (As per JMC 165/5B1)
100	165/ 5P15	Private	Dry	0.0061	Geetha G Hegde W/o B Ganapathi Hegde, Pathayath Nazeer Husen S/o P Mohamad Usman, Veleriyan Mendonz S/o Gilwart Mendonz, Hilla Saanthamejor W/o Villiam Saanthamejor, John Kruz Piyad lobo, Pristiya Kardoza yaane pristiya lobo, Shivaram Hegde S/o Bhrammaiah Hegde, Vinay Poojarthi W/o Baabu poojari, Mohamad Ashraf Faroki, Aruna Vasudev Shenoy, Sujatha
					Surendra Pai, B Ganapathi Hedge S/o Ankadi Lakshman Hegde, K V Shanthamma W/o Shankar nayar, Abubkar S/o Hayath saheb, Lalitha, Santhosh kumar, Sangeetha, savitha, Elliyamma O T W/o K P Josph, Bashir saheb, Powjiya banu, Mansur, Farzanan baanu, Peter Farnandiz, Alis Farnandiz, Mubina Mohamad hussen S/o Mohamad hussen, Shek Mohamad S/o Shek Abdul Razak, Nazumunnisa W/o S A Sathar, Lancy norenna S/o Jokim norenna, Aliz Farnandiz, Mubina mohamad Husen, Kaswa (As per JMC 165/5B2)
101	24/14	Private	Garden	0.002	Alban Edwin DSouza S/o Pitar DSouza
102	24/20	Private	Garden	0.0344	Sajida Begum W/o Javed Arabi jaavin Green Garden
103	24/21	Private	Garden	0.0051	Rasheeda baanu W/o Abdul Hafiza (As per SRT 24/32)
104	24/22	Private	Garden	0.003	Clotilda DSouza, Carell DSouza, Konstan Shan DSouza, Candida Shima DSouza,
105	24/26	Private	Garden	0.0061	Roman Pinto S/o late Luies Pinto Miyaru Syndicate Bank Karkala
106	24/27	Private	Garden	0.0121	Anthony aliyas Desillva, Aron manual Desillva, Anor Mueriyal Desillva, (24/27-100 SQM/NAK, Kairunna Pulkeri as per 24/28 -21 SQM DRY)
107	24/6C	Private	Wet	0.2024	Refail DSouza, Lesli DSouza, Meri Pereora D/o John pereroa, Irin Chirsthan machado W/o Francis machado, Usha Sathish Hegde W/o Sathish Hegde, Everst Rego, K Padmini W/o late K Ravi Devadiga, Florin DSouza, Charles DSouza, Meri lilly DSouza, Josephin DSouza, Hillada DSouza, Anitha DSouza, Clotilaa DSouza, Carell DSouza, Konstan Shan DSouza, Candida Shima DSouza,
108	24/ 7A11	Private	Garden	0.001	Alban Edwin DSouza S/o Pitar DSouza
				Total	**3.516**

[F. No. RW/NH-12037/13/2021-22/KNT Zone-South-I/3D]

SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

KARNATAKA STATE CO OPERATIVE CONSUMERS FEDERATION LIMITED

No.4, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajapete, Bengaluru-560 01
Ph.No.080 26702504 E-mail: ksccfltd1964@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP Portal)

KSCCF invites Tenders for below mentioned works through KPP Portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderer

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate cost in Rs.	EMD in Rs.
1	Civil works related to proposed construction of Janatha Bazaar Building at SMK Layout, Hassan.	Rs. 34,65,000.00 (GST shall be paid to Tendered amount Separately).	Rs. 70,000.00

Last date for submission of Tender: **30.12.2025 at 12.30 P.M.** Date &time of Opening Of Tenders: **02.01.2026 at 12.30 P.M.** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal. Tender must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before the due date. The tender must be submitted online through KPP Portal as per the E-Procurement portal guidelines. Other details can be seen in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender document Number KSCOCFL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT1

Sd/- (Managing Director)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga Ph: 08182-222943
Email ID: spdivision@gmail.com

Short-term Tender Notification (Two-cover system)
(Through KPP portal)

IFT No. 31/2025-26 **Date: 18.12.2025**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 2059-80-053-4-00-200-Building Maintenance in Shivamogga tq Roofing and Building other repair work of the old circuit house of Public Works Department in Shivamogga City(INDENT-28811) Amount put to tender is. **Rs.89.18** Lakhs & EMD amount is **Rs. 1.785 lakhs.** Time allowed for completion of work is 06 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **18-12-2025 to 25-12-2025** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **25-12-2025 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on 26-12-**2025 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **27-12-2025 Onwards.** If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through E-Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

DIPR/SMG/No-105-12/zenkar/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY Refer Classifieds on Wednesday

ಆದಿಕವಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ರಾಯಚೂರು
Adikavi Shri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur

Krishna Tunga Campus, Mantralaya Road (N.H. 167), Raichur -584133
Website:https://raichuruniversity.ac.in

ಸಂ:RUR/EXAM/TENDER/2025-26/VEHI ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.12.2025

NOTIFICATION FOR TENDER

Tenders are invited from reputed Companies/Agencies for providing/supplying/ serving the Transportneeds of the Examination section of Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University, Yeragera, Raichur. Visit the kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal for the Last date and other details.obtained during the office hours from 9448570696/ registrarevrur@gmail.com

Note: If any changes in the tender, it will be published portal only

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)
Adikavi Shri Maharshi Valmiki University, Raichur

DIP/RCR/615/KSMC&A/617/2025-26

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL, BELGAUM-590009
(Govt of India, Ministry of Defence)

REQUIREMENT OF TEACHERS ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

1. **Principal, Rashtriya Military School, Belgaum invites applications from interested and eligible candidates for the following teaching post purely on contractual basis**

Sl. No.	Posts	No.of posts/ Subject	Educational Qualification	Salary
(a)	**Master Gazetted (Equivalent to PGT)**	01 Post of Social Science	(I) Master's degree in the concerned subject with B.Ed from a recognized university. (ii) 3 years teaching experience in secondary or senior secondary schools	Consolidated pay of Rs. 30,000/- per month for each post,

2. **Interested candidates fulfilling the above qualification are requested to apply on or before 30 Dec 2025 along with resume/bio-data with mobile number & Xerox copies of testimonials.**
3. **Short listed candidates will be called for Written Test followed by Interview subsequently.**

NOTE: The decision of the School authorities will be final & binding in all respect.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND NO-12/TS/2025-26 Date: 18.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 12/2025-26
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D Bangalore Rural for Providing Man Power Services on Out-Source basis to Various Offices of Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Grameenabhivruddhi Bhavan, Anand Rao circle, Bengaluru for 02 years from reputed orgnisations. The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal (kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: 29.12.2025 upto 5.00 pm. Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/4585/SPAN/2025-26

RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Office of the Chief Engineer, RDW&S Dept., 1st Floor, E-Block,KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore-560009. Tel: 080-22053700 Email: cerws14@gmail.com

No. RWSSD/2025-26/SE0775 Date : 20-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites short term tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for **"Selection of a Digital Media Agency for Rural Water and Sanitation Department, Government of Karnataka".** EMD: **Rs. 1,35,000/-.**

The last date for submission of bids through e-portal is **27-12-2025.**

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
RDW&SD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/4571/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (Project)
Old Madras Road, K R Pura
Division-02, Bengaluru - 560 036

No:BECC/K.R.PU.Z-02/EE(P)/PR/04/2025-26 Date: 19-12-2025

SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION OF ISTIHAR E-AUCTION
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

Subject: Regarding Istihar e-auction for collection of Toll at the time of conducting Weekly and daily Fair at 3 acre 34 gunta in K. R. Puram Santhe Maidana

This is to inform the general public that the tender process is as per direction in original file of the special commissioner BBMP (Market), stating that the below mentioned amount for the year 2025-2026 of Bengaluru East City Corporation. Interested may participate in the auction subject to terms & conditions through KPP Portal. For more details about auction terms and other details may be availed in the K. R. Pura revenue division office during working hours.

The registration date for participation in e-auction is from **22-12-2025** to **29-12-2025.** Pre-bid meeting on e-auction **25-12-2025** at **3:00** pm. Commencement of e-auction for online bidding **30-12-2025** at **11:00** am. Last date for concluding e-auction **30-12-2025** at **5:00** pm.

Starting bid price per month Rs. 20,58,750/-

Rs. 17/- toll is fixed per month/sq ft under market rate for weekly or daily fare. For any other queries may contact the Executive Engineer (Project) Bengaluru East City Corporation, K. R. Puram Zone-2 Division. Mobile No: 94486 76356.

Terms and Conditions can be availed during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Project)
K. R. Puram Division-02,
Bengaluru East City Corporation

Government of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, ACADEMY PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, KARNATAKA STATE,

Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009
Ph.: 9480806400, E-mail: academv.prisons-kar@ka.gov.in

No.KAP&CS/OUTSOURCE/CR-42/2025-26 Dated:-20.12-2025

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

As per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 1999 and Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Rules, 2000, e-procurement for Providing various Manpower Services for Academy of Prison and Correctional Services Department, Bengaluru for the year 2025-26 through e-Procurement.

Tender Indent No.	Brief detail of Tender	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Last date for submission
PCSD/2025-26/ SE0017	Providing various Manpower Services for Academy of Prison and Correctional Services Department, Bengaluru	Rs. 1,28,370/-	02.01.2026

In order to participate in e-Procurement platform, all the intended suppliers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. Suppliers can also take assistance with e-Procurement help desk at **080-22230960, 080-22234115.** For further details please visit at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
The Director Academy of Prisons & Correctional Services
Karnataka State, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4570/SSC/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, Mayohall Premises, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

No: BCCC/JC-1/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 20-12-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors / Firm registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Data Entry Operators to Offices under the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, Mayohall Premises, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560001. (to be deployed to the BCCC Offices spread across) **(No. of Data Entry Operators Required - 60). EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22-12-2025. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **29-12-2025 at 16.00 Hours in the Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, BCCC Residency Road, Mayohall Premises, Bengaluru. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted Online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 31-12-2025. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru on 02-01-2026 at 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, BCCC.

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

BORDER FALLOUT Shift in narrative follows Trump's intervention to halt the war

Thailand recasts Cambodia strikes as war on scam sites

BLOOMBERG

Thailand's army has recast its deadly clash with Cambodia as a battle against scam centres, adding a new motive for bombing runs across the border that it says are aimed at rooting out cybercriminals.

Calling the strikes a "war against the scam army", a military division involved in the border fighting said this week it was on the frontline against the global threat of transnational crime syndicates operating across neighbouring Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Bangkok's new tone brings together two simmering crises in Southeast Asia: a border conflict between the neighbours that has killed dozens and displaced around half a million people, and a sprawling scam ecosystem that has swindled billions of dollars, primarily through so-called pig-butchering and call-centre schemes.

Thailand has been used as a transit hub for trafficked victims, who are coerced or smuggled across the border into neighbouring countries and forced to carry out online fraud. The framing also suggests Bangkok is seeking to align itself with both Washington and Beijing, which have separately urged Southeast Asian nations to crack down on scam operations that have targeted American and Chinese citizens.

In two statements this week, Thailand's Second Army Area Command, which oversees fighting in four of seven border provinces, said some targets hit by the Thai military in Cambodia this month were scam compounds used by Cambodian troops. Previously, it had focused only on military targets.

Thailand has been "cutting logistical and operational lifelines" and "dismantling transnational criminal support structures", the command said on Wednesday. "The true adversary is the transnational criminal networks and power structures that sustain illegal interests through violence."

In a separate statement on Thursday, the command said Thai forces had neutralised at least six scam-related facilities — which it also refers to as casinos — including two sites previously sanctioned by the US government.

PREAH VIHEAR

Hindu temple caught between war and worship

The Site

- 11th-century Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva
- On the Cambodia-Thailand border

What Is Settled

- Temple belongs to Cambodia as per International Court of Justice (1962) and it was reaffirmed in 2013
- Cambodia has full sovereignty over the monument

What Is Unsettled

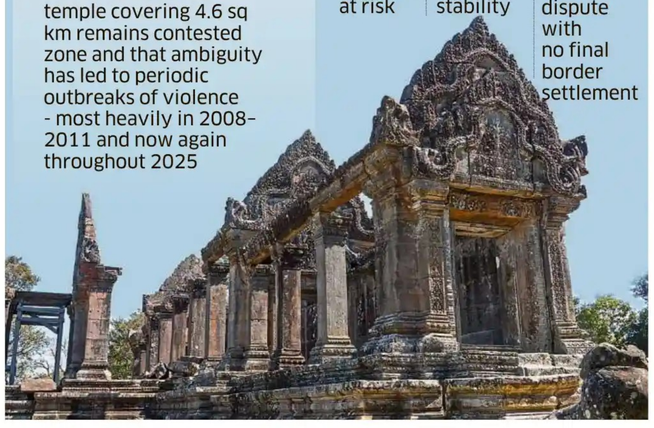
- Border around the temple covering 4.6 sq km remains contested zone and that ambiguity has led to periodic outbreaks of violence - most heavily in 2008-2011 and now again throughout 2025

Why Clashes Happen

- Troop patrols in disputed zone
- Nationalist politics on both sides
- Strategic high ground near the temple

Why It Matters

Cultural heritage at risk | Threat to regional stability | Long-standing dispute with no final border settlement



Trump intervention

US President Donald Trump has taken a keen interest in the border fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours, which erupted earlier this year. In July, he threatened both sides with trade restrictions to halt the violence and later oversaw a peace accord in October.

Trump said both leaders pledged to prevent renewed fighting after he spoke with them at the weekend. However, subsequent Thai army statements this week imply the US administration may have given Bangkok tacit approval to continue its strikes.

"This explains why many countries, despite calling for a 'ceasefire', have taken no concrete action against Thailand, including the US, which appeared to exercise polite caution while supporting peace," the army unit said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio later expressed Washington's concern over the fighting in a phone call with Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow, the State Department said.

Thailand has deployed F-16 and Gripen fighter jets to bomb buildings and bridges used by Cambodia's military since the conflict flared again on December 7. Thai authorities have said the targets included "deserted" casinos housing drone command centres, weapons depots or troops and snipers.

On Thursday, Cambodia's defence ministry said Thailand used F-16s to drop two bombs in Poipet, a casino town notorious for housing cybercrime operations. It did not say whether any casinos were hit.

The Thai air force said it was targeting rocket depots, while Richa Suksuwanan, deputy spokesman of the Royal Thai Army, told a news briefing that all targets had been verified as military installations. "The attacks were not solely focused on casinos and scammers," Suksuwanan said.

"Every target identified was clearly being used as a military base, frequently including drone command centres and weapons depots."

Since the start of the year, Thailand has intensified its crackdown on scam networks operating out of neighbouring countries, a push that Chinese President Xi Jinping has publicly supported.

The billion-dollar cyber scam industry has expanded across the region for years and is often run by Chinese nationals who fled in 2020 following a domestic crackdown. According to a United Nations report, hundreds of thousands of victims from as many as 56 countries have been trafficked to work in scam compounds.

Last month, Thailand handed over a Chinese-born, naturalised Cambodian citizen alleged to be a casino kingpin wanted by Beijing. In February, Thai authorities repatriated several Chinese nationals who had worked in fraud operations in Myanmar.

The military's targeting of Cambodian casinos followed a series of measures earlier this year aimed at crippling the illicit economy. Thailand halted exports to Cambodia, including fuel it said could be used to support transnational crime, and barred Thais from travelling to Poipet for work.

The renewed fighting underscores how Thailand is increasingly framing the border conflict not as a conventional territorial dispute but as part of a broader campaign against organised crime — a narrative that appears to align with priorities in both Washington and Beijing. With Trump having previously intervened to halt the fighting through the threat of trade penalties, Bangkok's latest stance suggests it believes continued military action against alleged scam hubs will face limited international pushback, even as diplomatic efforts to de-escalate intensify.

Epstein files refer to 'massage techniques', Ayurveda from India

New disclosure has reignited political controversy

NEW YORK, PTI

The newly released Epstein files have references to what they described as "massage techniques" and Ayurveda from India.

The US Justice Department on Friday released thousands of files related to convicted sex offender, late Jeffrey Epstein, after US President Donald Trump signed a bill last month mandating their release within 30 days.

The issue is politically sensitive in nature, with a massive campaign by the Democrats calling for the release of the files related to the wealthy financier known for his connections to some of the world's most influential people.

Trump was friends with Epstein for years before the two had a falling out, and this connection has been a matter of great political controversy.

Among the exhibits in the Epstein files that the Justice Department has released, one mentions the use of massages and Ayurveda for detoxification. "Many practitioners in the West are now offering massage and other treatments based upon this 5,000-year-old system of natural healing from India," it says.

It also has articles titled 'The Art of Giving Massage', which mentions the use of sesame oil for detoxification. The files included only a small number of photos of Trump, and the Justice Department acknowledged that its documents disclosure was incomplete.

It featured a series of photos of former US president Bill Clinton as well as a picture of Epstein with the late pop star Michael Jackson. Neither Trump nor Clinton has ever been accused of wrongdoing in connection with Epstein.

Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges that said he sexually abused and trafficked dozens of underage girls.

(Top) Undated photo of former US President Bill Clinton with an unidentified woman; (below) with singers Michael Jackson and Diana Ross at Epstein's estate. REUTERS

Limited details about Trump

The released files include a small number of photos of Trump, which appear to have been known for decades, including two in which Trump and Epstein are posing with now-first lady Melania Trump in February 2000 at an event at Trump's Palm Beach club, Mar-a-Lago, before the pair's friendship ruptured. Trump was friends with Epstein for years before the two had a falling-out. Neither he nor Clinton has ever been accused of wrongdoing in connection with Epstein, and the mere inclusion of someone's name in files from the investigation does not imply otherwise.

10 arrested over Hindu man's lynching in Bangladesh

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, PTI

Ten people have been arrested in connection with the lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh, Chief Adviser of the interim government Muhammad Yunus announced Saturday.

Dipu Chandra Das, a 25-year-old garment factory worker, was lynched to death by a mob and his body set on fire over alleged blasphemy in Baluka in Mymensingh on Thursday. Of the 10, seven were arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) while three were arrested by the police as suspects in the case, Yunus said in a statement on X.

The RAB and police conducted operations in various locations to arrest these individuals, he said. The arrests were made during operations at various locations, and the ages of those arrested ranged from 19 to 46. According to the police, Das was first beaten up by a mob outside the factory over blasphemy allegations and hanged from a tree.

Musk's net worth crosses $700 bn

REUTERS: Tesla CEO Elon Musk's net worth rose to $749 billion Friday after the Delaware Supreme Court reinstated Tesla stock options worth $139 billion. His 2018 pay package had earlier been struck down by a lower court as "unfathomable."

Musk became the first person to surpass $600 billion in net worth amid reports that SpaceX may go public.

Imran Khan and wife get 17-year jail term in graft case

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were sentenced to 17 years in jail each by a court on Saturday in the Toshakhana 2 corruption case.

Khan, 73, who has been in jail since August 2023, faces multiple cases launched against him since his ouster from power in April 2022. The Toshakhana 2 case involves alleged fraud in state gifts that the former first couple received from the Saudi government in 2021.

Special court judge Shahrukh Arjumand announced the judgment in the case at Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala Jail, where the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder is currently being held.

Khan and Bushra were awarded 10 years' imprisonment under Sec 409 of the PPC and seven years under different sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

US strikes in Syria kill 5 IS members

DAMASCUS, AFP: A Syria monitor said on Saturday that five Islamic State jihadist group members had been killed in US strikes overnight as Jordan confirmed it participated in the raids, after a deadly attack on American troops last weekend.

US forces said they had struck more than 70 IS targets in what President Donald Trump described as "very serious retaliation" for the December 13 attack that killed two US soldiers and a US civilian.

Washington has said a lone IS gunman carried out the attack in central Syria's Palmyra, home to UNESCO-listed ancient ruins and once controlled by jihadist fighters.

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5							1	9
			9			2	5	

SOLUTION TO 3771

9	5	6	3	7	2	4	8	1
2	7	4	1	8	6	3	5	9
8	1	3	4	9	5	2	7	6
1	9	8	2	5	3	6	4	7
7	6	2	9	4	8	5	1	3
4	3	5	7	6	1	9	2	8
5	4	9	6	1	7	8	3	2
3	8	1	5	2	9	7	6	4
6	2	7	8	3	4	1	9	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MADHUGIRI
Town Hall Raod, Madhugiri, Tumkur District,
Ph: 08137-282328, 283866, E-mail: ka.madhugiri.tmc@gmail.com
Website : www.madhugiritown.town.gov.in

No. : T.M.C./J.E./Tender/CR/07/2025-26 Date : 19-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per KTTP Act 1999 - 2000 Rule 2000, **Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council Madhugiri** was invited Tender for Works under **2018-19 SFC Special Grants** from eligible Tenderer can Participate Tender for the following Works in KPPP Portal **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

WORK INDENT : 1) DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK-INDENT-52067/ Call-2, Tender Cost (Rs. Lakhs) : 55.00, Last Date of Receipt of Tender : 03-01-2026 @ 5.30 p.m., Date for Opening Technical Bid : 05-01-2026 @ 5.30 p.m., Date for Opening Financial Bid : 06-01-2026 @ 5.30 p.m.

Note : For more Information contact office during working hours.

Sd/- Sri, Goturu Shivappa, Administrator, TMC, Madhugiri
Sd/- Sri, Suresh S. Chief Officer, TMC, Madhugiri

DIPR/Tumakuru/63/Manipal/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Shanthinagar), 9th Floor, Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building (PUB), M G Road, Bengaluru-560001

No.: EE(SN)/TEND/15/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagar Division) invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing eligible reputed Service Providers for the services as given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Collection of Parking fee in Nethaji Subhsh Chandra Bose Building (Public Utility Building), M.G. Road, Bengaluru. **EMD (in Rupees.):** 80,000/-.

Calendar of events: (1) Availability of RFP Document **23.12.2025** onwards. **(2)** Date of Pre bid meeting at the Office of Chief Engineer (Central Zone1): **12.01.2026 @ 3:00 p.m.** 18th Floor, P U Building, M G Road, Bengaluru-560 001. **(3)** Last date for submission of Proposals: **19.01.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of opening of Technical Proposals: **20.01.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of Financial Proposals will intimated to the Tenderers through mail / Phone. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara), BCCC

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

NOTICE

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.6000 crore (Rs.1000 crore-06 Years and 6 Months Tenure ; Rs.2000 crore-08 Years Tenure ; Rs.1000 crore-10 Years Tenure ; Rs.2000 crore-12 Years Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai
3. Date of auction : December 23, 2025

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)
Joint Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/4567/Zen/2025-26

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಗ್ರಾಕೈ) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್
(ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ) ಬಿ.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
Tender NO:IC/2025-26/IND0138/Date:01.12.2025
ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.12.2025

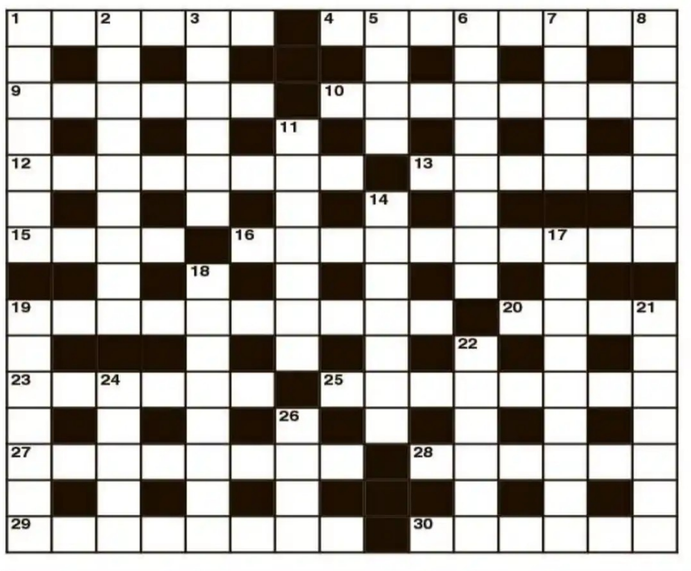
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ

ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಗ್ರಾಕೈ), ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಶಲಕರ್ಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಉಪಕರಣ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಯಗಳಡಿ** ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಹೊಲಿಗೆಯಂತ್ರ/ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal website:**http/eproc.kar.gov.in** ಮುಂಖಾತರ ಡೌನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಆನ್ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.12.2025 ವನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.12.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದೆ** ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.01.2025, ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಮಾದರಿ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.12.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆಯೆಂದು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಗ್ರಾ.ಕೈ)
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:323/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2659 ◆



ACROSS
1 Indicate (6)
4 Secret refuge (8)
9 Give an opportunity to (6)
10 Maker of women's hats (8)
12 Guardian of people's rights (8)
13 An ideal society (6)
15 Bobbin (4)
16 Tough assignment (6,4)
19 Honest (2,3,5)
20 State of feeling (4)
23 Method of procedure (6)
25 Without foundation (8)
27 Act of retaliation (8)
28 Plant suited to rock gardens (6)
29 Tchaikovsky ballet (4,4)
30 Passionate (6)

DOWN
1 Authorise (7)
2 Falling back (2,7)
3 Hackneyed phrase (6)
5 State of northeast US (4)
6 Revealing (8)
7 Confess frankly (3,2)
8 Set aside for a purpose (7)
11 Intricate (7)
14 Generous (7)
17 Simultaneously (2,3,4)
18 Curative (8)
19 Mediocre in quality (2,5)
21 Sweet course (7)
22 Tentative proposal (6)
24 Shade of brown (5)
26 Lie in the sunshine (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4019

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, Sheep pen 10, Sol 11, Enab-L(ittl)e 12, Snorts 13, Eman-at-E 14, Give 15, Leave alone 17, Spoke out 18, Di-all-E-d 19, Spar (rev) 21, Ogress 24, Grasping the nettle 27, Pis-tol (rev) 29, Hind 30, The-rap-y 33, S-CH-ooner 35, Dis-closure 36, Mint 37, Receive 38, Bumper 40, Re-deem 41, Eye (aye) 42, Sentence.
DOWN: 1, Th-under-ing 2, Bear 3, Apost-ate 4, Enve-lop 5, Ill-assorted 6, Heret-O-fore 7, Tangle 8, F-L-avours 10, Stake 16, V-aliant 20, Pu-t-on (rev) 22, Returns 23, In character 25, Palindrome 26, Experience 28, Inclined 31, Hellbent 32, As-per-se 34, Out-set 35, Drive 39, Meet.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Labourer 10, Gnu 11, Oxygen 12, Impede 13, Everest 14, Navy 15, Knighthood 17, Fracture 18, Monocle 19, Chic 21, Instep 24, Secret compartment 27, Tariff 29, Tidy 30, Iceberg 33, Eye tooth 35, Torrential 36, Mini 37, Turmoil 38, Chubby 40, Hacker 41, Tun 42, Geometry.
DOWN: 1, Harmonious 2, Some 3, Oriental 4, Freedom 5, Superficial 6, Contradict 7, Cygnet 8, Perverse 10, Greed 16, Gnocchi 20, Humid 22, Sherbet 23, Scotch broth 25, Effrontery 26, Threadbare 28, Atypical 31, Coercion 32, Trilogy 34, Tricky 35, Thorn 39, Used.

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD? Come February, the IOC could bar transgender athletes from competing in Olympics

A decision set to herald tectonic change

Algeria's Imane Khelif, who reportedly failed a gender test in 2023, stoked a lot of controversy at the Paris Olympics when she won the women's 66kg gold. AFP FILE PHOTO

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a largely smooth and successful Paris Olympics last year, a major controversy erupted in the boxing ring. When Algerian Imane Khelif and Taiwanese Lin Yu-ting -- both of whom had been disqualified at the 2023 World Championships by the now-banned International Boxing Association (IBA) for failing gender eligibility tests that reportedly showed elevated testosterone or chromosomal findings -- were cleared by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), one knew the global spotlight would be on the North Paris Arena. And that's exactly what happened when Khelif walked out for her opening 66kg bout against Italian Angela Carin. The tension and anticipation were similar to a sold-out heavyweight battle at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas or Madison Square Garden in New York with media gaze at its peak.

All it took was 46 seconds for the IBA to feel somewhat vindicated and cast the IOC in poor light, which personally oversaw the boxing programme in Paris. Khelif, completely oblivious to the spotlight on her, walked in with a swagger and in two clean heavy punches, knocked the stuffing out of Carin. The Italian, who is the daughter of two police officers, then did something unthinkable. After getting her headgear checked, Carin thought for a few seconds before removing her mouthguard and conceding the bout. The visuals instantly went viral across the world, the bout yet again highlighting the issue of whether women with elevated testosterone or chromosomal findings should be allowed to compete in the women's category. For the record, both Khelif and Lin (57kg) went on to win gold in their respective categories, the former dominating most of her bouts in ruthless fashion.

Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting was another boxer who failed a gender test but she too went on to claim gold, in the 57kg category. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

The next Olympics in Los Angeles is about two and a half years away, but the IOC, now under the new leadership of Kirsty Coventry, is determined to avoid such mishaps. More importantly, in line with Olympic values that advocate fair play as well as protecting the dignity of athletes, the world body has set a target of early 2026 to detail a new policy on eligibility in female sports that could see transgender athletes excluded from the Olympic Games.

"I am really hopeful that in the next couple of months, and definitely within the first quarter of next year, we will have a very clear decision and way forward. It's not going to be the easiest thing to do. But we are going to try our best to ensure that when we are talking about the female category, we are protecting the female category and we are doing that in the most fair way," Coventry, a two-time Olympic champion swimmer, said early this month after a meeting of the executive board she chairs.

The decision on barring transgender athletes or athletes with differences in sexual development (DSD) from competing in women's categories could possibly come during the Milan Cortina Winter Games that opens on February 6. In essence, athletes who went through male puberty will be barred from competing alongside women, something that World Athletics, World Aquatics, and the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee have implemented, albeit not without controversy, with critics questioning the tests conducted to differentiate a male from a female. Women have XX chromosomes while men have XY, which is what the governing bodies consider.

Although it's still unclear what the IOC committee intends to do, judging by Coventry's comments, it appears as if the world body will bar transgender athletes from competing in women's categories. In fact, all seven candidates, including Coventry, in the run-up to the IOC presidential election, promised a stronger policy on gender eligibility.

While it may seem unfair to transgender athletes because what chromosomes they have or how much testosterone their bodies produce or what physiological changes their bodies undergo during puberty — some of it can have long-lasting psychological effects — is not entirely in their control, it's a no-brainer that females are physically weaker sex and every effort needs to be made to protect their interests. Testosterone is an anabolic hormone and that's the primary reason why men can run faster and throw longer than women. Although they may not be injecting it and is naturally produced in their bodies, excess amount of testosterone gives an advantage to transgender athletes over women.

"The reason why doping is considered an offence is because it breaks the concept of a level playing field," Anju Bobby George, India's first World Championships bronze medallist, told *DH*. "So, when a third gender comes into the women's category, they already have an advantage. So, as a woman, I feel this is not fair. I'm so sorry for the third gender athletes, because it's not their fault. But, when they compete in the women's category, I feel sorry for women athletes. A solution would be to have competition for the third gender.

> "The reason why doping is considered an offence is because it breaks the concept of a level playing field... So, when a third gender comes into the women's category, they already have an advantage. So, as a woman, I feel this is not fair.
> -Anju Bobby George

Anyone who takes drugs has an advantage because they will be ahead of normal athletes. We are not against the third gender, but their bodies will be having an excess amount of banned substances naturally."

Dr PSM Chandran, former Director of Sports Medicine at the Sports Authority of India, however, felt barring transgender athletes is extremely unfair. "I commend the IOC for protecting women athletes. Similarly, the IOC should also protect transgender athletes because sport is not limited to just males and females. It's for all. Transgender athletes have the equal right to participate. It is a difficult process because it is difficult to define transgender completely. There is a difference of opinion among the medical community on defining a gender."

Former Athletics Federation of India president Adille Sumariwalla, who has been a council member of World Athletics for a decade that pioneered the move to ban transgender athletes from competing alongside women, differed with Chandran, saying there's enough scientific evidence available. "Women have to compete against women. As simple as that. You saw what happened in boxing (Khelif bout), that girl (Carin) had to throw in the towel else she would have gotten killed.

"I'm proud to say World Athletics has done all the heavy lifting. A lot of cases were filed at CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport), but the ruling came in favour of us (regarding Female Eligibility Regulations). All our regulations are backed by science. Hardcore scientific data was presented before the courts. In the beginning, World Athletics was criticised. Now the rest of the world is following, and I feel it's about time," opined Sumariwalla.

Not just Sumariwalla and Anju, but World No. 1 tennis player Aryna Sabalenka and a whole bunch of elite athletes oppose transgenders from lining alongside women. US President Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" this February.

The sporting world now waits with bated breath for the IOC's game-changing decision next February.

IN BRIEF

Al-Ameen win Inter-Collegiate

▸ Al-Ameen College thrashed St Joseph's University 7-1 in the final to lift the Dr Mumtaz Ahmed Khan Boy's Inter-Collegiate hockey tournament on Saturday, reports DHNS.
Result: Al-Ameen College: 7 (Shiva Kumar 5th, Lithu 8th, 16th, Prem Kumar 13th, Shrinivas T 18th, Akheel M 20th, Harsha HR 40th) bt St. Joseph's University: 1 (Kaverappa 38th).
Individual awards: Best goalkeeper: Ganapathy, Sapient College, Mysuru. **Best defender:** Shan, St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru. **Best midfielder:** Siddhanth, St. Joseph's. **Best forward:** Lithu, Al-Ameen, Bengaluru. **PoT:** Shiva Kumar, Al-Ameen.

2 captains for Lancers

▸ Kalinga Lancers on Saturday appointed India drag-flicker Sanjay and Belgium stalwart Arthur Van Doren as co-captains ahead of Hero Hockey India League 2026, reports PTI from Bhubaneswar.

The HIL will be held from January 3-26 across Chennai, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar.

Sanjay recently led the national team to a runners-up finish, while Van Doren captained Belgium to the title at the 31st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup held in November.

Joshna, Veer reach semis

▸ Joshna Chinappa and Veer Chotrani qualified for the semifinals of the CCI Western India Squash tournament here on Saturday, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Chinappa defeated Reiva Nimalkar 11-4, 11-3, 11-5 to move into the semifinals whereas Sanya Vats had to struggle to get the better of Pooja Arthi R.

TENNIS WTL

High-flying Kites clinch title

Kyrgios-led team lifts maiden trophy after 22-19 victory

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

By the time Eagles' Sumit Nagal took on compatriot Dhakshineswar Suresh of the Kites, the latters' team were ahead 15-13 in total points. In what has turned out to be a week that Suresh will long remember, the 25-year-old made it more memorable by defending his team's slender lead and winning 7-6 over Nagal to help the Kites finish as champions of the fourth edition of the World Tennis League here on Saturday.

Playing his third tie of the evening at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, Suresh began confidently against a determined Nagal who threatened to take the men's singles to overtime. With each competitor holding all their service games, the match needed a tie-breaker to decide the eventual winner.

With fortunes swinging, Suresh's big serve came to his rescue in the dying moments to help the Tamil Nadu lad win the tie-breaker 7-5 to hand Kites their maiden title at the tournament.

Similar to their slow start to the campaign here -- with two loses and a win only in the third round robin match -- the final script for the Kites also had fortunes fluctuating. It was in the third tie, the men's doubles, that the momentum shifted towards the Kites. Leader Nick Kyrgios, who enrolled to play just one of the four matches, partnered Suresh and used all his saved energy to score a 6-3 win over Eagles' Gael Monfils and Nagal.

Earlier, there was no Paula Badosa, the top international female player for the Eagles, playing at the final of the four-day event. The onus of leading charge had fallen on India's no. 2 singles specialist Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.

Nick Kyrgios-led Kites emerged champions of the World Tennis League, beating Eagles at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

The Hyderabad girl, taking to court for the first tie against Kites' Marta Kostyuk, had one set to impress the almost full stadium. Shrivalli (ranked 348 in the world) embraced the occasion and dazzled by serving deep, returning solid, packing a punch in her groundstrokes to push the world No. 26 Kostyuk to the brink. However, the Ukrainian channeled her frustration in the right direction and managed to break Shrivalli in the 10th game to wriggle herself to safety for a 6-4 victory.

In the mixed doubles, Srivalli paired with the leader of their team Monfils combined well to secure a 6-3 over Suresh and Kostyuk.
Results: Final: Aussie Mavericks Kites: 22 bt AOS Eagles: 19 (Marta Kostyuk bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-4; Dhakshineswar Suresh/ Kostyuk lt to Gael Monfils/ Shrivalli 3-6; Nick Kyrgios/ Suresh bt Monfils/ Sumit Nagal 6-3; Suresh bt Nagal 7-6).

Satwik-Chirag exit in semifinals

HANGZHOU, PTI

Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the BWF World Tour Finals after losing the semifinal to China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang here Saturday.

The Indians won the first game but failed to capitalise on the advantage, going down 21-10, 17-21, 13-21 in the last-four contest that lasted one hour and three minutes.

Satwik and Chirag had beaten their opponents in the group stage but the Chinese pair turned the tables on them when it mattered the most.

The Indian duo was unbeaten in the group stage in the season-ending tournament but Saturday's defeat meant that they could not become the first men's pair to reach the summit clash of the coveted event.

They though became the first Indian men's pair to reach the semifinals of the season-ending event.

The two pairs split the first 10 points, with the Indians targeting Liang. Patient and composed, the Indians dictated terms to move to 9-6 before a smash from Chirag gave them a four-point cushion at the break.

Chirag Shetty (right) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy lost to China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in the semis.

Hodge century stalls WI follow-on

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, (NEW ZEALAND), AFP: Kavem Hodge scored his second Test century on Saturday as the West Indies avoided the follow-on in the third Test at Mount Maunganui

At stumps on the third day, the West Indies were 381/6, still 194 runs behind with Hodge unbeaten on 109 and Anderson Phillip at the other end on 12.

The 32-year-old batter crawled to his century off 224 balls, hitting 12 boundaries and being dropped on 74 by Daryl Mitchell off Ajaz Patel.

It took him 33 balls to get through the 90s, including a long stoppage on 97 after he was hit a painful blow.
Brief scores: New Zealand 575/8 decl vs West Indies: (O/n: 110/0): in 23 overs (John Campbell 45, Brandon King 63, Kavem Hodge 109 n.o., Tevin Imlach 27, Alick Athanaze 45, Justin Greaves 43; Jacob Duffy 2-79, Ajaz Patel 2-94).

Erling Haaland

City stroll to the top; Chelsea fight back

MANCHESTER (UK), AFP

Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League by beating West Ham 3-0, while Chelsea fought back to salvage a 2-2 draw at Newcastle on Saturday.

Arsenal can retake top spot for Christmas when they visit Everton later, but City ramped up the pressure on the Gunners with a seventh consecutive win in all competitions.

The Hammers feared a rout when Haaland smashed home after just five minutes.

Alphonse Areola saved the Norwegian's first effort before the ball broke kindly for Haaland to fire into the top corner.

Haaland turned provider for City's second just before half-time as Tijjani Reijnders scored his first goal at the Etihad.

West Ham missed a number of chances to halve the deficit early in the second period as they remain in the relegation zone.

Haaland, by contrast, was ruthless as he netted his 38th goal of the season already for club and country when the ball broke his way 21 minutes from time to move City one point ahead of Arsenal.

Results: Newcastle: 2 (Woltemade 4th, 20th) drew with Chelsea: 2 (James 49th, Joao Pedro 66th); Bournemouth: 1 (Semenyo 67th) drew with Burnley: 1 (Broja 90th); Brighton: 0 drew with Sunderland: 0; Manchester City: 3 (Haaland 6th, 69th, Reijnders 38th) bt West Ham: 0; Wolves: 0 lt to Brentford: 2 (Lewis-Potter 63rd, 83rd).

Heart wins feature

KOLKATA RESULTS

Deepesh Narredu-trained Heart, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Usha Stud Calcutta Oaks, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Saturday.

1. Ins Hoogly Cup - 1200M: Oishika (Vikram Bachawat) A Prakash 1; Contessina (Suraj Narredu) 2; Lavish Girl (Akshay Kumar) 3; Three Little Words (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: Hd, 3/4, 3-1/4L. T: 1:413.81. TB: Shyam Habbu. Fav: Contessina.

2. Navy Cup - 1600M: Victorious Omen (Chirag Shah) A Prakash 1; Vivaldi (Hindu Singh) 2; True Faith (P Tejeshwar) 3; Tycoonist (Chetan Gowda) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 6, 2-1/4L. T: 1:38.07. TB: S Waheed. Fav: Hermod.

3. Misty Melody Handicap - 2400M: Ksepiman (Cheriyan Abraham) Mukesh Kumar 1; Garth (Akshay Kumar) 2; Multi Success (Suraj Narredu) 3; Star Power (A Vikrant) 4; Not Run: Cool Daddy. Wb: 7-1/2, 7L, Dist. 2:34.37. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Multisuccess.

4. Statue Of Liberty Handicap - 2400M: Gold Empire (Teja Gollapudi) Suraj Narredu 1; Zarak (A Prakash) 2; Golden Warrior (Nikhil Naidu) 3; Stormy Ocean (Md Azarduddin) 4; Wb: Dist, 9-3/4, 1/2L. T: 2:30.88. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Gold Empire.

5. Usha Stud Calcutta Oaks - 2400M: Heart (Ram Shroff) Suraj Narredu 1; Eleanora (A Prakash) 2; Xanthe (Akshay Kumar) 3; Sanaya (Vaibhav) 4; Wb: 5, 9-1/4, 8L. T: 2:31.94. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Heart.

6. Tiger Tops Handicap - 1400M: Godsend Divine (Mrs G.Alford) Mukesh Kumar 1; Simran's Attitude (Hindu Singh) 2; Pyrgos (A.Prakash) 3; Happy Morning (Hasib Alam) 4; Wb: 4, 3/4, 3L. T: 1:27.93. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Goddess Divine.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 43w; 18, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 155; Q: Rs 48; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 40: Tri: Rs 411 & 189; Ex: Rs 921 & 466.

II race: Rs 70w; 10, 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 321; Q: Rs 101; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 1,187 & 532; Ex: Rs 12,258 & 5,253.

III race: Rs 19w; 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 129; Q: Rs 32; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 47; Tri: Rs 107 & 19.

IV race: Rs 14w; 10, 21p: Fc: Rs 19; Q: Rs 12; Shp: Rs 15; Thp: Rs 18; Tri: Rs 23 & 11.

V race: Rs 14w; 12, 16p; Fc: Rs 50; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 116 & 25; Ex: Rs 306 & 244.

VI race: Rs 24w; 10, 12, 19p; Fc: Rs 78; Q: Rs 44; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 157 & 114; Ex: Rs 524 & 351.

Jackpot: Rs 1,512 (204). **Runner-up:** Rs 196 (675). **I treble:** Rs 1,539 (24). **II treble:** Rs 72 (1222).

Zacharias for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Zacharias, from the stables of Pesi Shroff and to be ridden by Oisin Murphy, is fancied to win the Indian 2000 Guineas, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a mile at the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 12:45 pm.

1. Castlebridge Trophy - 1400M: Ashwa Ankara 1, Marlboro Man 2, Prince Igor 3.

2. Synthesis Trophy (Div I) - 1400M: Solidarity 1, All For Love 2, Lucio 3.

3. PD Avasia Trophy (Div II) - 1200M: Enforcer 1, Eastern Monarch 2, Esteban 3.

4. Beautiful Stranger Trophy - 1400M: Red Bishop 1, Scaramouche 2, Opus Dei 3.

5. Faiz Jasdanwalla Trophy - 1200M: Hermanus 1, Admirable 2, Zanele 3.

6. P.D.Avasia Trophy (Div I) - 1200M: Akitania 1, El Moran 2, Heavens Rhythm 3.

7. Gracias Saldanha Memorial Million - 2000M: King Ke 1, Tiepolo 2, Exuma 3.

8. Indian 2000 Guineas - 1600M: Zacharias 1, Baychimo 2, Stormy Sea 3.

9. Gulamhusein Essaji Trophy - 1600M: Brasilier 1, Giant Gold 2, Looking Like A Wow 3.

10. Synthesis Trophy (Div-II) - 1400M: Bezalel 1, Renoir 2, Aeon Flux 3.

Day's best: Red Bishop. **I Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **II Jackpot:** 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10. **I Treble:** 4, 5 & 6. **II Treble:** 7, 8 & 9. **III Treble:** 8, 9 & 10.

Pak players face financial issues

KARACHI, PTI: Pakistan's hockey players continue to grapple with financial issues as they wait for their outstanding dues, running into lakhs, to be cleared by hockey authorities.

A national team player also claimed that the hockey authorities are yet to clear the daily allowance dues for domestic training camps, the tour to Bangladesh as well as the FIH Pro League.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

3rd Ashes: Australia vs England (Day 5, 5:30 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

3rd Test: New Zealand vs West Indies (**Day 5, 3:30 am, Monday**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode**.

U-19 Asia Cup: India vs Pakistan (Final, 10:30 am, **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV**.

1st WT20I: India vs Sri Lanka (7:00 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1, JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Aston Villa vs Manchester United (**10:00 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports 3, JioHotstar**.

La Liga: Girona vs Atletico Madrid (**6:30 pm**), Villarreal vs Barcelona (**8:45 pm**), Elche vs Rayo Vallecano (**11:00 pm**), Real Betis vs Getafe (**1:30 am, Monday**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

BADMINTON

World Tour Finals: Finals (**11:00 am onwards**) **LIVE** on **Star Sports 3, JioHotstar**.

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Gill omitted as Kishan RETURNS TO SQUAD

Axar handed back vice-captaincy; Rinku recalled while Jitesh excluded

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Selection committee Chairman Ajit Agarkar (right), BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia (centre) and Indian men's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav during a the announcement of the Indian squad for the ICC T20 World Cup in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

The Ajit Agarkar-led Indian selection panel sprang a surprise by dropping the team's designated vice-captain, Shubman Gill, for the forthcoming T20 World Cup. It was a highly unexpected decision but a welcome one nonetheless, given what is at stake.

All-rounder Axar Patel, who was the team's vice-captain before being replaced by Gill, got the job back while in-form Ishan Kishan was rewarded with a second wicketkeeper's slot. The second wicketkeeper-batter until the South Africa series, Jitesh Sharma ceded his place to the Jharkhand cricketer while Rinku Singh returned to the squad as a designated finisher after being part of the victorious Indian squad in the Asia Cup.

Though Agarkar conceded that Gill was short on runs, he attributed the Punjab batter's omission to the team's combination. Few would have been convinced by Agarkar's explanation.

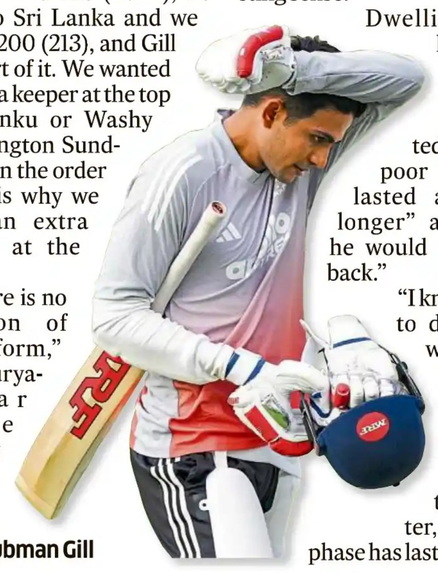
"We know what a quality player he is, but perhaps he is a little short of runs at the moment," said Agarkar after the announcement of the team in Mumbai on Saturday.

"He is unfortunate to have missed out on the last World Cup as well because we went with different combinations. It's the combinations more than anything else. Someone has to miss out when you pick 15 and unfortunately, it's Gill at this point."

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who has also endured a prolonged lean patch, echoed a similar opinion.

"Post T20 WC (2024), we went to Sri Lanka and we scored 200 (213), and Gill was part of it. We wanted to have a keeper at the top and Rinku or Washy (Washington Sundar) down the order which is why we have an extra keeper at the top.

There is no question of Gill's form," said Suryakumar whose reply was as reassuring as his own form. So, are we to believe that Gill would have been dropped even if he had been among big runs? While Gill may feel aggrieved by his omission, there was no need to be so defensive about a decision that is refreshingly bold and made absolute cricketing sense.



Shubman Gill

Dwelling on his own form, Surya admitted that his poor run had lasted a "little longer" and that he would "bounce back."

"I know what to do and I will do it. You will definitely see Surya the batter, but this phase has lasted a little longer. Other players have also bounced back in form in the past. I know I am batting beautifully in the nets," he noted.

The inclusion of Kishan, who plundered 517 runs in Jharkhand's victorious Syed Mushtaq Ali campaign, was another welcome decision.

"We are looking at the combination. If the keeper is going to bat at the top, at the moment Jitesh is there and he has not done too much wrong. But we need to look at the combination and a keeper at the top," offered Agarkar.

India, who will be defending the title they won in the Americas in 2024 under Rohit Sharma, boast a balanced side for the sub-continental conditions.

Barring Surya, the top four are in solid form. The clutch of all-rounders in Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Shivam Dube and Washington provides depth in both bowling and batting while Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav offer great bowling variety.

The same team will play the five-match series against a visiting New Zealand (from January 21) ahead of the biennial ICC showpiece event which will commence from February 7 with Sri Lanka being the co-hosts.

Keeping in mind it is a home tournament, the BCCI has decided not to announce any stand-by players.

India's squad for the T20 World Cup and the five-match series against New Zealand: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Axar Patel (vice-captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishan Kishan (wk).

KISHAN: LOST AND MIRACULOUSLY FOUND

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Even Ishan Kishan, who generally oozes a lot of confidence, must have been stung by disbelief when BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia announced his name in India's squad for the T20 World Cup next year on Saturday. Out of the national side following a fallout with the team management during the 2023-24 tour of South Africa, the immensely talented but temperamental Kishan's career hit a crossroads.

And when you lose your direction in Indian cricket, especially the way Kishan did by defying authorities, it's hard to be found again given how overcrowded the space is. After pulling out of the South Africa tour in December 2023 citing 'mental fatigue', Kishan chose to skip domestic cricket despite the BCCI laying a huge emphasis on it for players seeking return to the national team.

Worse, instead of playing competitive cricket, he opted to train on his own in Baroda. Such rebellious actions, for whatever reasons, seldom go unpunished and the 27-year-old was dropped from the BCCI's central contract list in 2024, making his comeback that much more difficult.

But the beauty about sports is it always offers hope for those who never give up and mend their ways. That's the reason why comeback triumphs hold a special place in the fans' hearts and are celebrated more. Kishan, who made his Jharkhand debut at the age of 16 in 2014 and captained the Indian team in the U-19 World Cup in Bangladesh two years later, believed in his cricket despite all the rumblings about his actions.

His bid to cancel the noise in the IPL in 2024 didn't go as per plans as he could only manage 320 runs for Mumbai Indians, the franchise itself going through a crisis after replacing the immensely likeable Rohit Sharma with Hardik Pandya as captain. He then started this year's IPL on a rampage, smashing a 47-ball 106 not out in Sunrisers Hyderabad's opening games versus Rajasthan Royals but he couldn't sustain that charge, managing a total of 354 runs in 14 games.

While IPL performances can be rewarding, Kishan figured the only way back to the Indian team was if he could do wonders for his state side. And that's exactly what he has done this year, leading Jharkhand to a maiden title triumph in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy in Pune on Thursday by smashing 517 runs in 10 innings at a jaw-dropping strike rate of 197.

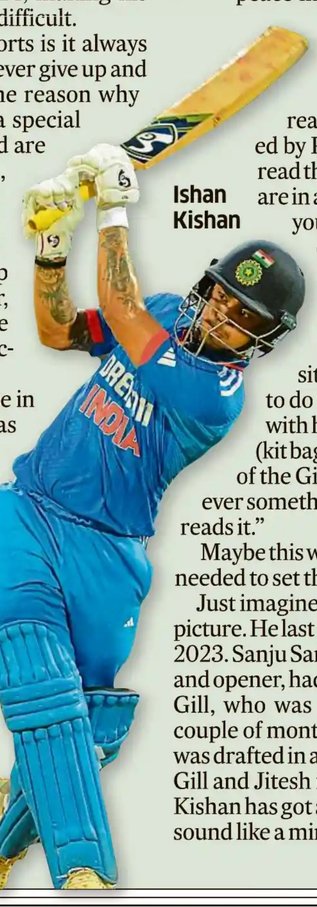
Kishan was determined to walk the talk. Apart from donning the gloves, he opened the batting and set the tempo throughout in typically blistering style. He then upped the ante in the final against Haryana, against whom he clobbered a 49-ball 101 to power his side to a mammoth 262/3 in 20 overs. And when Jharkhand sealed victory a couple of hours later, the joy was evident on Kishan's face; this triumph was as significant as the two IPL winners' medals he has with Mumbai Indians.

Spirituality has played a significant role in the turnaround of Kishan whose fondness for tattoos, diamond ear studs and flashy clothes is well known. But according to his father Pranav Pandey, the southpaw has found peace in the Bhagavad Gita. Verses from the sacred book gave him a new perspective during troubled times.

"My mother told me to read the Gita," Pandey was quoted by PTI. "So, I suggested that he read the Gita. She had told me if you are in a lot of tension, then you keep your question in your mind and open the Gita. Read the page that comes in front of you. You will get the answer to your question in that page, helping in dealing with the situation. I asked him (Kishan) to do the same. The Gita is always with him, and he keeps it in his box (kit bag). He carries a pocket version of the Gita wherever he goes. Whenever something happens, he opens it and reads it."

Maybe this was the divine intervention he needed to set things right.

Just imagine, Kishan was nowhere in the picture. He last played for India in November 2023. Sanju Samson, the first-choice keeper and opener, had to make way for Shubhman Gill, who was also named vice-captain a couple of months ago. Then Jitesh Sharma was drafted in as the main keeper. Now both Gill and Jitesh failed to make the cut, while Kishan has got an unlikely call-up. Doesn't it sound like a miracle!



Ishan Kishan

Nikhil brace gives K'taka flying start despite several misses

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nikhil Raj (centre) scored a brace in Karnataka's 3-0 win over Lakshadweep at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Saturday.

FC Bengaluru United's Nikhil Raj scored twice in the first half while Karthik Govind Swamy's late strike helped hosts Karnataka to a routine 3-0 win over Lakshadweep on Saturday to get their Santosh Trophy qualifying round campaign off to a good start at the Bangalore Football Stadium here.

While Nikhil's brace paved the way for the hosts to dominate the game without breaking sweat, Northeast United FC's Macarton Louis Nickson squandered two easy chances to add to Karnataka's tally.

Ravi Babu Raju's side went ahead as early as the eighth minute with Nikhil slotting a penalty past goalkeeper Mohammed Shameer Shaik.

Bengaluru FC product Chapamyum Rohen Singh almost doubled the hosts' lead when a stunning solo effort saw him dribble past several Lakshadweep defenders, before cutting in and drilling the ball into the crossbar.

Bengaluru Colts' Shreyas Ketkar, who recently won the Best Midfielder in this season's KSFA Super Division League continued to press and apply pressure. Some sloppy work from the visitors then saw them giving the ball away to Nikhil, who delightfully played a ball to Macarton, but the 21-year-old failed to put the ball into an open net.

Nikhil doubled his tally as an impressive Rohen beat two defenders from the edge of the box for the skipper to tap it in as Karnataka went into the break with a two-goal cushion.

There was, however, no respite for Lakshadweep in the second half as a poor pass from the back was converted into a Karnataka chance, but Godwin Johnson's strike went straight to the keeper.

Lakshadweep, to their credit, forced Karnataka to take a step back with their glimpses of attacking promise and were also denied a close penalty shout.

The visitors, who had kept Karnataka quiet throughout the 45 minutes in the second half, saw their resolve broken in stoppage time, as Karthik scored in the 93rd minute.

While a sloppy Karnataka, who missed a few good chances, did seal the deal, they could be in for a tougher challenge when they meet Services on Monday.

Results: Karnataka: 3 (Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 8th pen, 43rd, Karthik Govind Swamy 90th+3) bt Lakshadweep: 0; Services: 4 (Abhishek Pawar 59th, 64th, Roashan Panna 59th, 64th) bt Goa: 0.

Ton-up Rohith, Sukurth dig Karnataka out

BENGALURU, DHNS : Karnataka U-16 team settled for its third consecutive draw as R Rohit Reddy and Sukurth J scored unbeaten centuries on the final day of their Elite Group D match against Baroda in the Vijay Merchant Trophy in Raipur on Sunday.

The duo forged an unbeaten stand of 172 runs for the sixth wicket to recover Karnataka from 65/5 after a top-order collapse.

Yuvraj Sinh, who stood out in the first innings as well, troubled the most with two wickets (2/40) as Karnataka resumed the day on 6/1.

Following another draw, Karnataka moved to third from the bottom two with nine points from three games. The lack of victories leaves them in a spot of bother as Andhra and MP occupy the two qualifying spots with 13 points each.

Karnataka will take on table toppers Andhra next on December 23 in Bhilai. The side will face bottom-placed Goa, who lost all their matches so far.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 234 all out & (O/n: 6/1): 237/5 in 81.5 overs (R Rohith Reddy 105 n.o., Sukurth J 100 n.o.; Yuvraj Sinh 2-40) drew with Baroda: 177 all out.

Ashes within Australia's grasp

ADELAIDE, AFP: An unrelenting Australia were four wickets from retaining the Ashes at close of play in the third Test on Saturday as England clung to the dying hope that they could chase a record 435 to save the series.

England clawed their way to 207-6 to take it to a fifth day in Adelaide with Will Jacks on 11 and Jamie Smith two, still 228 runs from their target.

They lost big guns Zak Crawley (85), Joe Root (39), Harry Brook (30), and Ben Stokes (5) in the final session with Nathan Lyon and Pat Cummins doing the damage.

Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who made a century in the first innings, had another good day with his quick hands stumping Crawley off Lyon.

"I just thought Nathan was bowling really well and to continuing putting lots of energy on the ball," said Carey. "He toiled away all day and finally got some reward. There's enough in the pitch. We saw that, and finally he picked up a couple of late wickets."

Carey expected England to fight till the bitter end on Sunday and said he was not thinking about winning the Ashes.

"We'll reflect on today and come up with plans for tomorrow. We know these guys are quality players right to the end, and we want to keep working hard and probably not look too far ahead."

England's captain Ben Stokes reacts after getting dismissed at Adelaide Oval on Saturday. AFP

England must win to keep the five-match series alive after being crushed by eight wickets at Perth and Brisbane.

With attendance over the first four days swelling to more than 200,000 -- a record for the Adelaide Oval which has been hosting Tests since 1884 -- they face a daunting task.

No team has ever chased down more than 316 at the venue while Windies made the biggest chase of 318 against Australia in 2003.

Brief scores: Australia: 371 all out & (O/n: 271/4): 349 all out in 84.4 overs (Travis Head 170, Usman Khawaja 40, Alex Carey 72, Brydon Carse 3-80, Josh Tongue 4-70) vs England: 286 all out & 207/6 in 63 overs (Zak Crawley 85, Joe Root 39, Harry Brook 30, Pat Cummins 3-24, Nathan Lyon 3-64).

VHT: Kohli may play at Chinnaswamy

BENGALURU, DHNS: After the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) received a conditional approval from the State government to host Indian Premier League (IPL) matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, high-profile domestic cricket could return much sooner with the decks being cleared to host the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy, starting on December 24.

Delhi, who are slotted in Group D for the national one-day championships, are set to play all their matches in Bengaluru. And Virat Kohli, who confirmed his availability for the couple games, will return to his "second home".

However, with Delhi set to play five of their seven group fixtures in Alur, which can't accommodate fans, it is understood that the KSCA will move matches involving Kohli from Alur to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, due to security reasons as there is a chance for fans to gather outside in ground in huge numbers.

It is also not clear which of the games Kohli will be available for selection. The last time Kohli featured in a Vijay Hazare Trophy game was back in February 2010.

In another development, it is learnt that the KSCA might also allow close to 10,000 fans to watch the Royal Challengers Bengaluru star, if the requisite permission is given by the cops.

The newly-elected KSCA office bearers have submitted a request seeking permission to host Hazare matches at Chinnaswamy and also met Home Minister G Parameshwara on Saturday to discuss the same.

Virat Kohli

Young blood in focus as India face SL challenge after WC high

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: India's quest to find stable support acts who will serve them at least until next year's World Cup will begin with the first Women's T20I of the five-match series against Sri Lanka here on Sunday.

The familiar faces — skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, her deputy Smriti Mandhana (**in pic**), Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Renuka Singh — are there, but it cannot be forgotten that they are either in their 30s or moving fast to that mark.

In that context, Indian think tank will watch the evolution of young batter G Kamalini and promising left-arm spinner Vaishanavi Sharma closely.

The 17-year-old Kamalini has shown her maturity across various stages for Tamil Nadu in the BCCI U23 T20 Trophy, then in the U19 World Cup earlier this year, and later in the Women's Premier League for Mumbai Indians. On the other hand, Vaishanavi has been in the selectors' radar once she emerged the top wicket-taker in the U19 World Cup with 17 wickets.

In Radha Yadav's absence, the 19-year-old Vaishanavi may get a chance to operate alongside fellow left-armer N Sree Charani.

Reyansh bags U-15 boys' title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Reyansh Jalan overcame opening game loss to beat Vedant Vashisht 4-1 in the boys' under-15 final of the CVL Shashtry memorial Karnataka state table tennis championship at the Canara Union on Saturday.

Reyansh Jalan

Earlier in the semis, Reyansh defeated Arnav Mithun.

Result: Boy's U-15 singles final: Reyansh Jalan bt Vedant Vashisht 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-9, 11-6.

Semifinals: Vedant bt Tamoghna M 11-7, 11-7, 11-7; Reyansh bt Arnav Mithun 11-8, 11-9, 4-11, 11-2.

India take on Pak in U-19 final

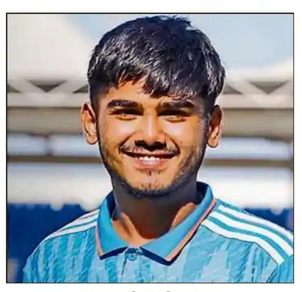
DUBAI, PTI

Eyeing a record-extending 12th title, a dominant India will look to underline their supremacy over arch-rivals Pakistan when they clash in the Under-19 Asia Cup final at the ICC Academy, here on Sunday.

The Ayush Mhatre-led Indian colts have been a class apart, winning all their Group A matches to finish on top ahead of Pakistan, who suffered their only group-stage defeat against India, a 90-run loss last Sunday.

India carried that momentum into the semifinals on Friday, brushing aside Sri Lanka by eight wickets. Pakistan, on the other hand, reached the final by knocking out defending champions Bangladesh.

India's march to the final has been built on an all-round effort, with batters and bowlers gelling together seamlessly to form a formidable unit.



Ayush Mhatre

With the bat, India have been nothing short of spectacular, posting two 400-plus totals. The 50-over tournament has seen the rise of exciting young talents, such as 17-year-old wicketkeeper-batter Abhigyan Kundu. If teenage prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi set the tone in the opener against UAE with a breathtaking 95-ball 171 as India piled up 433/6, Kundu etched his name into the record books against Malaysia.

The left-hander smashed an unbeaten 125-ball 209, becoming the first Indian to score a double century in Youth ODIs.

The duo will look for yet another good show against a disciplined Pakistan bowling attack. Even when the top-order has faltered, India's middle-order has risen to the occasion.

Hyderabad's Aaron George has been the glue, registering three successive half-centuries, often batting through the critical middle overs while maintaining a strike rate of 100-plus.

EMPIRE OF THE MIND

When magical thinking shapes security strategy

Gurucharan Gollerkeri
The former civil servant enjoys traversing the myriad spaces of ideas, thinkers, and books

Earlier this month, the United States quietly released its National Security Strategy 2025 – a short document. On paper, it is meant to define how the world's most powerful nation conceives its security challenges and responsibilities. But read carefully, and you quickly sense a strange confluence of grand ambition, ideological nostalgia, and selective attention – a kind of geopolitical incantation. For many other countries, especially rising powers like India, the 2025 NSS must seem less like a pragmatic roadmap and more like magical thinking cloaked in policy prose.

It is a case of imagining that Atlas shrugged or the 'end of global burdens'. The 2025 NSS makes explicit what many in Washington evidently believe: the days when America propped up the entire world order like Atlas are over. This is a big rhetorical shift from earlier post-Cold War doctrines that cast the US as the global policeman, democracy-promoter, and institutional backbone of international order. By signalling a withdrawal from many traditional theatres – from the Middle East to peace-keeping to global governance – the document purports to release the US from burdens forged in earlier eras.

But this retreat is less an honest reappraisal of engagement than an act of magical declamation: it imagines that problems abroad – like wars, humanitarian crises, and instability – can simply be wished away or outsourced. The world, in effect, disappears unless it fits squarely inside the US strategic self-interest. That is not realism: it is a rhetorical spell, a wishful negation of complexity. For India, which has stepped into many of the vacuums left by US disengagement in recent years – in regional security, development, and institution-building – this "Atlas shrug" is not comforting. It risks leaving behind a world receding not in response to real stability, but in response to US indifference.

Perhaps the most striking re-orientation in the 2025 NSS is the prioritisation of the Western Hemisphere. The US now claims the Americas – not Eurasia, not Indo-Pacific – as the locus of its primary security interests. In doing so, Washington revives a 19th-century doctrine – a new Monroe Doctrine with a Trump Corollary – as the backbone of its global posture. This is not just a reallocation of resources; it is a mental re-mapping of global stakes. By turning to its 'backyard,' the US implicitly downgrades every other region, including South Asia and the Indian Ocean, to secondary or tertiary importance unless they serve narrow transactional purposes. From New Delhi's vantage point, this shift feels like a re-definition of geography: a subtle but powerful message that India, and the broader Indo-Pacific, will count only so long as they help Washington manage its economic competition or keep China in check, but not as part of any vision for global public goods, climate, development, or multilateral cooperation.

The consequent realignment suggests transactional rather than substantive partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and with India. To give context to this shift, the NSS document encourages 'improved commercial (and other) relations with India' and invites New Delhi to 'contribute to Indo-Pacific security,' presumably alongside the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). There is no denying that for India, this explicit mention carries some value. Washington continues to view India as a strategic pivot in deterrence against a rising China, and the NSS reaffirms that partnership. Yet, and here is where the magical thinking shows, the NSS frames such cooperation almost entirely in transactional, utility-based terms: commerce, technology, burden-sharing. The document is silent on values, long-term institution-building, or deeper structural cooperation. Democracy, climate, development – all the dimensions that matter to a rising power with global aspirations – are relegated to the shadows.

For India, this suggests that the US sees New Delhi not as an equal partner shaping a new world order, but as a tool to be deployed when it is convenient. That is a dangerous illusion to accept, because it binds India to a worldview that may shift with Washington's internal politics, but may not deliver stability or global leadership. When major powers build their strategy around wishful visions – nostalgia rather than evidence, assertion rather than engagement – they risk creating instability masked as control. The 2025 NSS, for all its ambition and rhetoric, is in many respects a document of magical thinking. It conjures up a world simplified for American convenience: geography redrawn, allies redefined, global burdens shrugged off, and the future compressed into convenience.

Strategy is not magic. America's new security doctrine reads like a spell cast in the hope that disorder will politely disappear. For India, a nation buffeted by climate, commerce, and conflict, there is no refuge in magical thinking. The world will not be wished into order. It will only be steadied by those prepared to face it as it is – unromantic, unruly, and very much awake.

STATE, MARKET, SOCIETY

A people-first progress model

It's been said for a long time that the development of North Karnataka should be a priority for the state. Every government in the last two or three decades has expressed its determination to develop the backward districts. In 2000, the state government set up a Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, which made several recommendations. Since then, a fair amount of money has been spent on projects and initiatives recommended by this committee.

But notwithstanding the declarations of commitment, the gulf between the prosperous districts and the ones bringing up the rear has persisted. And in March last year, the government set up yet another committee, this time to not only assess development in those districts, but also suggest corrective steps.

Something quite similar is going on at the national level. Some states have significantly lagged others, and for a very long time now, there have been huge transfers of funds from the richer states to the poorer ones. Despite that, the states that bring up the bottom of development rankings have been there for long.

Why? And more importantly, what can we do differently? Perhaps we've been asking the wrong question. Throughout the years, when it has been apparent that a region is lagging, the instinctive response has been to ask – What should the government do? This assumes that the answer to the problem lies within the government, and therefore, we must look for the options available there. But what if we've been looking for our lost keys where there is light rather than where we dropped them?

Early after Independence, we became accustomed to the idea that the government must develop India. In an era of giant new PSUs and limited private investment, perhaps that was predictable. But as the private sector began to grow, the government should have withdrawn more from its role in industry and focused on delivering public goods and services; instead, it has taken on new responsibilities without shedding its old roles.

As the number of things they need to do has grown, governments should have responded by making local councils responsible for more functions. But they did not do that. As a result, they're overburdened with responsibilities and have to choose which things they'll pay attention to. In that struggle for attention, weaker regions have invariably lost out.

Ashwin Mahesh
A social entrepreneur, founder of Mapunity and LVBL, and co-founder, Lithium, wakes up with hope for the city and society, goes to bed with a sigh
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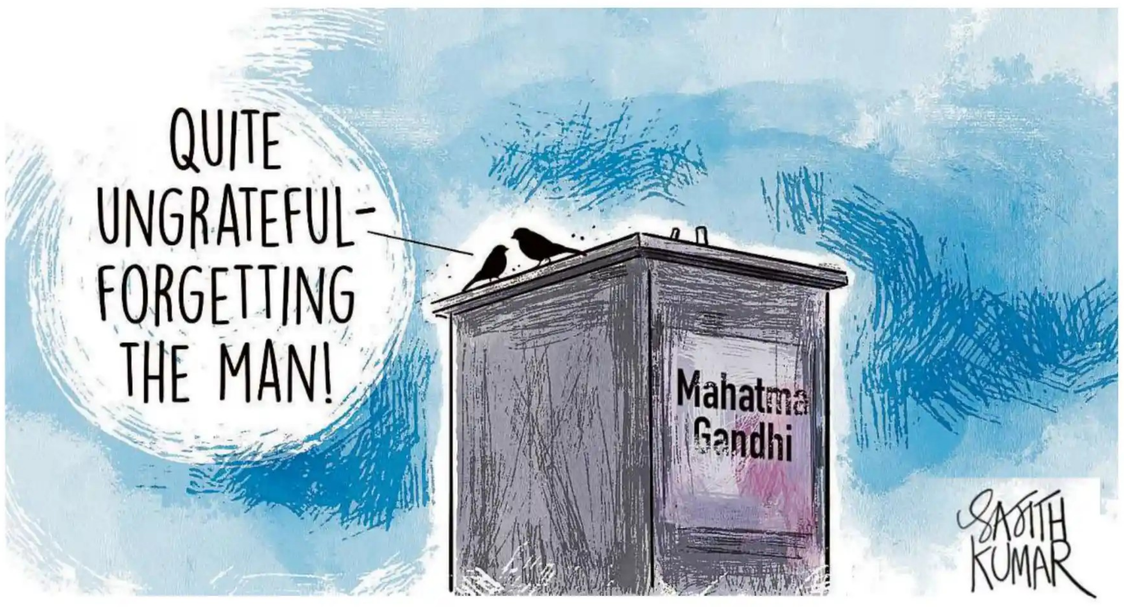
There has been an even bigger downside to this. Focusing excessively on what they could do to solve various public problems, governments did not ask what the people could do instead, and how the state could enable them. At a time when they should have been promoting the capabilities and freedoms of citizens, they did the opposite, insisting that only governments could be trusted and empowered to solve public problems.

The result is widespread scarcity across sectors. If we're serious about developing backward districts, we must first let them control more of their own destinies locally. State and national control of development will almost always favour the places that are already top-of-mind to political leaders, leaving other places neglected. And second, we have to accept that development is not something the government alone can create; it needs society and the market too. There is evidence for this way of thinking. The states that have more decentralisation of governance also have multiple economic hubs and social infrastructure that nudges people to think they have a future in those places.

Amartya Sen famously pointed out that development is the expansion of people's freedoms, allowing them to seek and achieve the lives they wish to lead, including pursuing their economic goals. In this way of thinking, people are not mere beneficiaries of strategies to create investments or jobs. They are the reason we seek development, and it is in their imagination that we should pursue it.

I recently asked a senior executive of a leading IT firm about the company's experience in trying to shift some of its workforce to smaller towns. He was candid, pointing out that companies want to be where the talent is, and managers in particular don't want to go to places without social infrastructure.

We do need investments and jobs in the poorer districts. But more than that, we need better child care, education and health, more skills training, better public transport and credit access, and other inputs that enable people to develop their talents and have a good quality of life. And we need to trust that places with these features will be naturally attractive to the investments we wish to bring there.



GADFLY

Reading on the move

Public transport marked my life as a student. Growing up in a corner of north Mumbai in the 1990s and 2000s, I felt the value of the city's overcrowded buses and local trains, whenever I left it to visit other towns, which only had buses and auto-rickshaws for public transport. In those toddler Internet days, people read printed materials in trains, buses, stations, depots, and hospitals. They read standing, sitting, crouched between aisles, amid rows of people toing and froing from workplaces. They read newspapers, magazines, poetry, history, religious texts, smut, in English, Urdu, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, French, and Spanish. They read and swayed as the Mumbai local's handles on the top of the train coach clinked the bar that held them. They read fat 19th-century novels and solved cryptic crosswords, playing with clues on margins of the paper using a pen or pencil tucked behind one ear. As a college student, books became my BFFs. In them, I saw my own and others' feelings refracted; lives laid bare.

Over one summer as a student in the late 1990s, I freelanced for a tiny website and a daily paper in the southern end of the city. In this period, finding time only on the bus and train journeys, I completed reading the three novels of Franz Kafka. Local trains at that time had some of Mumbai's best writers travelling in them, and sometimes, one struck up a conversation with them and later saw them at the once-a-month poetry reading at the British Council or American Centre.

When the new term began, again on the early morning train to college and the early evening one from it (almost like a typical Mumbai office-goer), R K Narayan, Iris Murdoch, Doris Lessing, A K Ramanujam and the Brontes became friends. I began loving reading poetry. I'd lift my eyes to reflect on the mess of Mumbai outside as the moisture-wrought windows of the train peeled paint and left its residue on the pages of the book in my hands. I found one sight, the mangrove gutter that one crossed between the stops of Mahim Junction and Bandra, unbearable, and often the train would stop over it for a minute or two. I'd tie a kerchief around my nose like a biker and dive into what I was reading to avoid looking out till the train gathered pace. I'd lift my eyes off a moment, an image, a sentence one of the greats I was reading offered, and knew it spoke immediately to the feelings of the person an inch from my nose, who was staring at my book's cover.

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Later, I studied in Delhi and became a hack there. Like many others, I read in buses, autos, and office-run cabs. J M Coetzee, Cormac McCarthy, Lawrence Durrell, and Maya Angelou saw me through its heat, cold, dust, and smog. A dried hibiscus leaf from Lodhi Gardens has bookmarked my old Neruda collection for nearly 18 years.

I'm a quarter century older now. This year, more than ever, in all my years as a hungry reader and lover of the Word, I've felt only great literature levels to the quintessence of life's ambiguities and ambivalences. I'm a teacher now, and ride the expensive Namma Metro. In the slings and arrows that life has thrown, the 40-minute ride that takes me underneath and above central and southern Bengaluru, across rivers-turned-gutters, corporate office precincts, university greens, and army lands to my workplace, when much of the world has its nose to the cell phone, I've read 10 books in 2025. They've all been emotionally wrenching, and in these demanding litterateurs' words, I see the lives of people I've known and loved and whom either I have left or who have left me behind.

"History isn't the lies of the victors, as I once glibly assured Old Joe Hunt; I know that now...", writes Julian Barnes in *The Sense of an Ending* that I devoured twice this year, "It's more the memories of the survivors, most of whom are neither victorious or defeated." Stunned, I lift my head, gazing at the passing homes close to the metro pillar: Reading remains the most stirring stationary movement ever.

JUDGMENT DAY

International law, domestic procedure

People often believe that international law is not real law and is just a figment of a law professor's imagination. Whatever might be the merits of this view, it's certainly not true for situations in which international law impacts domestic legislation. Why should domestic law and international law interact at all, you might ask. It's for the same reason why domestic commerce and international commerce interact in this globalised world.

But globalisation comes at a cost, which is that the same item of income might be taxed by two or more countries. Suppose an Indian company within a multinational group sends dividends to its American parent company. The American parent company will be taxed in India because the dividend is coming from an Indian source. The American parent company, since it is resident in the United States, will also be taxed on the same payment in the US. This is a fairly typical problem of double taxation and cannot be solved only through domestic legislation. Enter international law in the form of tax treaties.

India has agreed in most of its tax treaties to reduce or eliminate its tax on dividends paid out by Indian companies to their foreign parent companies, so as to reduce the incidence of double taxation on foreign companies. Here, international law does count for something, as it has tangible effects on taxpayers affected by Indian tax law.

But here, we arrive at a complication. The law that impacts taxpayers are instruments promulgated by Parliament. This stands to reason; parliaments are elected bodies tasked with enacting laws for citizens. How is it possible, then, for the executive – a set of senior officials in the government – to enter into an agreement with foreign countries that modifies the tax obligations as set by Parliament?

In some countries, it's possible for international treaties to have a direct impact on the country, without the intervention of domestic law, but not in India. In India, the executive can enter into international treaties, but the treaty will have no effect domestically unless it is transformed into domestic law by Parliament. Section 90 of the Income Tax Act 1961 states that when India enters into a tax treaty with another country, it shall have the effect of modifying the tax obligation of persons to whom the treaty applies. However, the section also envisages that there is an official notification issued by the central government implementing the treaty. While the official notification appears to be a formality, it is in fact an indication of parliamentary intervention in the application of international law to domestic affairs.

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The scope and impact of section 90 was considered recently by the Supreme Court in *Assessing Officer (International Taxation) v* Nestle. In some of its treaties, India has agreed to an MFN (Most Favoured Nation) clause in its tax treaties. This is like a generation of good tidings clauses. It states that if India enters into more favourable provisions in the future in tax treaties with other countries, it will be obliged to apply the identical favourable provisions to MFN partner countries as well. That's the whole point of being an MFN partner. Similar MFN clauses are present in India's WTO agreements as well.

But there's a twist to this case. The government argued, and the Supreme Court agreed, that the MFN clauses will operate to bring more favourable tax treatment to taxpayers only if the government issues a separate notification under section 90 implementing the MFN treatment. Why so? Because only then will the legislative pre-approval loop in section 90 be completed. For non-lawyers, this appears to be an unnecessary bureaucratic complication, but for the Supreme Court, this was of capital importance.

This is one of those instances where the formality of the law becomes of great importance, and is one of those puzzling features of the law that annoys the public. Formalities in the law abound. Most property transfers require registration. Wills need a certain number of witnesses. Court cases require specific documentation. Why can't the law be simpler? Unfortunately, the answer is complicated. Formalities serve various functions. Sometimes, they make evidentiary arguments about past events easier. Sometimes, as in the Nestle case, they are in the service of making sure international law applies in domestic law only after due deliberation. Often, formalities are meant to constrain arbitrary behaviour by government officials. Many tax collection proceedings have failed because the wrong official sent a show-cause notice. Formalities matter. To what extent is a discussion for another day.

CULTURE AND COSMOS

Love, masculinity, and the modern man's silent crisis

Shaifali Sandhya
is an international psychologist, former professor, and writer on culture, cosmopolitanism, and global affairs

"My heart burns with grief," King Pandu lamented, at war with his lust. Cursed, he was condemned to death if he so much as laid a finger on his wives. "What life remains for a man who cannot embrace the woman he loves?"

Desire, as depicted in the 2000-year-old story from the *Adi Parva*, influences our sense of self-worth. The ability to desire and feel loved shapes how men understand their place in the world. Men grow up believing they are only as good as their performance. When it falters – at work or in bed – many feel broken.

New research concludes that anxiety and depression lead to erectile dysfunction, a persistent inability to achieve satisfactory sexual performance. ED is not a transient failure of desire, like the harangued husband during in vitro fertilisation. In thirty years, ED has spread from affecting 152 million in 1995 to over 320 million. Surveys suggest one in six Indian men face ED, while data indicate higher prevalence in Japan (one in three) and the United States (about one in four), with even higher rates in males over 70.

Other risk factors include: pollution, metabolic illnesses (obesity, prostate issues, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, high levels of blood cholesterol, and substance abuse), and cardiovascular disease. Among diabetic men in India and the US, nearly two-thirds struggle with it.

What presents today as ED reflects a deeper, older fear: the wasting of life's essence – *shukra, taqat,* and *veerya*. Long before ED entered clinical vocabulary, the *Dhat* syndrome – predating Western sexual medicine – articulated the sexual anxieties of Indian men. The fear was not dysfunction but depletion: semen loss as a drain on strength, memory, and manhood. Men speak of "leaking fluid," of vitality slipping away, of the body being quietly drained. India's contemporary ED burden is not merely a biomedical phenomenon but a modern expression of long-standing cultural vulnerabilities. To understand ED as more than a standalone medical condition ought to recognise the enduring interplay between emotional life, cultural belief, and the meanings societies attach to masculinity.

The global ED market is expected to reach $9.3 billion, fuelled by sales of anti-impotence drugs. Anti-impotence drugs' largest consumers by volume are Indians, spurred by cheap generics. Saudi Arabian and Egyptian men rank among its highest per-capita consumers. In the US, ED is medicalised and monetised, offering consumers renewed confidence. In all three regions, pills circulate freely, treating symptoms without addressing psychological burdens. Male sexual dysfunctions also generally go unnoticed and untreated due to sidestepping of cultural beliefs, relational conflict, cardiovascular risk, and socioeconomic/systemic factors.

Four counterarguments misrepresent ED: First, ED is merely an ageing issue. This is wrong as ED is increasingly common among younger men, for whom desire ought to feel effortless. Among American youth, a 31-fold increase in ED, compared to the last decade, has been observed. Indian doctors note its increase in men aged between 20 and 35. Second, blames pornography: although excessive porn amplifies performance anxiety and poor communication, it doesn't explain ED in depressed or stressed men who don't consume porn. But blaming ED on porn addiction allows societies to evade confronting its structural and emotional causes. Third, medications and new treatments like shockwaves solve the issue: drugs often mask symptoms, ignoring underlying issues. Finally, seeking help is a sign of weakness: this deters open discussions and exacerbates shame.

ED isn't merely a blood flow issue. It reflects a failure of language, permission, and love. In voicing their fears, Indian men use somatic and existential language: "*Har boond se kamzori hoti hai*" (every drop causes weakness) and "*Mardangi khatam ho rahi hai*" (my manhood is ending) rather than biomedical concerns. Complaints merge sexual with broader issues: back pain, fatigue, anxiety, and confidence loss.

Desire is one of the first casualties of modern intimacy – and one of the least talked about. Men instead may struggle with their desire brought on by ED through: extramarital affairs or one-night stands to prove their virility (novelty boosts dopamine, temporarily masking ED; escalating use of porn; avoidance of sex [for fears of "failing" partners]; avoidance of getting married and dating; overinvestment in work or fitness, or they may blame their partners for being unattractive. Recognising the anxiety-depression connection can empower partners to engage in conversations about intimacy, health, and ultimately, strengthen their bond.

Responding meaningfully to ED demands more than medication; it requires cultural permission for men to voice their struggles with desire, fear, and love. Without that permission, anxiety hardens into illness, intimacy collapses into silence, and love becomes fraught with shame. Before dysfunction takes hold of the body, it takes hold of meaning – and before men lose their capacity for erection, they often lose their confidence of being loved. Silence, not erectile dysfunction, is the real affliction.

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ಡಾ॥ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-12-2025ನೇ ಭಾನುವಾರ, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಹೆಚ್. ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ನಾರಾಯಣ್

ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ

99ನೇ ಹುಟ್ಟು ಹಬ್ಬ (ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕರ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆ)

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು

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ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪಿ.ವಿ.ಪಿ. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ದತ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿ.ಜಿ.ಪಿ (ನಿವೃತ್ತ)

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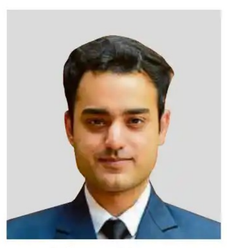
Zero posting, peak living?

Is opting out the new opting in? In the first part of our year-end overview on the ways in which online worlds are transforming offline lives and means of communication, Savitha Karthik examines how young users are choosing silence over feeds, resisting performative sharing, and making privacy cool again



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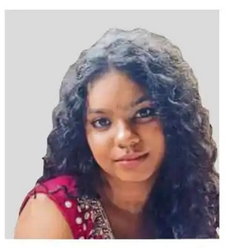

Inchara Bharadwaj

Anantha Narayan

Akanksha

Twenty-five years ago, the world was in the grip of the millennium bug — people of a certain vintage may recall the Y2K (2000) bug, a dreaded coding glitch that threatened to disrupt computer systems and the Internet across the world. That tech hurdle passed, Internet usage grew across the globe, albeit at varying speeds, and live messaging gained popularity. From the frisson of finding connections online via community websites like Geocities to blogging and sending each other 'scraps' on Orkut, to a rising social media fatigue, the ride has been nothing short of exhilarating. Today, the newest trend on social media, ironically, is 'posting zero'.

The term doesn't mean deleting social media accounts or going off the Internet, but choosing not to share. While continuing to stay on the platforms, many users have completely stopped sharing life updates or pictures on their grids.

At first, it may seem like yet another ephemeral trend that has caught the fancy of a generation born and brought up in a connected world. However, a recent study conducted by a digital audience insights firm for the *Financial Times* shows that time spent on social media has seen a 10 per cent decline, ever since 2022. The biggest declines were among young people, according to the study, which covered 2,50,000 people across 50 countries.

Optimised for endless scrolling

So, why are young people not posting anymore? In her book, 'Never Logged out', writer Ria Chopra discusses how the early digital experiences felt "oddly grounding compared to today's internet" for someone like her, born in 1999. She points to how the Internet she grew up with, "wasn't optimised to keep you scrolling indefinitely; it was optimised for you to leave it once your purpose was fulfilled."

Today, with the proliferation of what is now called 'AI slop', a stream of low and mid-quality content on social media platforms, the incentive is to consume mindlessly, never get out of the platform, and stay in a loop of perpetual daze.

From the early Internet era, when *Time* magazine anointed 'You' as the 'Person of the Year' in 2006, to when the same magazine has recently announced that the 'Person of the Year' goes to 'Architects of AI', there has been a seismic shift in the way we engage on social media.

When 'You' was controversially made person of the year in 2006, the magazine argued thus (excerpted): "Seriously, who actually sits down after a long day at work and says, I'm not going to watch *Lost* tonight, I'm going to turn on my computer and make a movie starring my pet iguana?... The answer is, you do." The magazine says 'You' needs recognition for "seizing the reins of the global media, for sounding and framing the new digital democracy," among other things.

Today, this has been completely turned on its head. 'Architects of AI' have been recognised for "delivering the age of thinking machines, for wowing and worrying humanity, for transforming the present and transcending the possible."

Lasting cognitive decline?

Whether AI will wow or worry is debatable, but some early signs are concerning. For instance, a new study from the University of Texas and Purdue University says that large language models (LLMs), when exposed to short and viral social media posts, experience "lasting cognitive decline."

If this is happening to LLMs, what about human beings? This fear of cognitive decline, in addition to increased anxiety, is what is triggering a pushback from social media users, and youngsters, in particular.

Delhi-based Ishaan Kapur, 25, who has been active on social media for more than a decade, says that only a couple of years ago, "we'd post pictures that were highly edited with filters, followed by long captions, with the overall intent of self-expression." Now filters are gone, pictures, extremely rare, are authentic, and there's an aversion to posting for many reasons, including privacy, and AI-Deepfakes. "Suddenly, privacy became cool — people who post rarely have come to be seen as more real and less boastful," he says.

The ones who have quit

Anantha Narayan, founder of a problem-solving company based in Chennai, describes himself as "what Gen Z calls a boomer." While noting that Gen Z posting has indeed dropped, he says that's because they hate to be "judged." Akanksha Srivastava (mid-20s), a Delhi-based company secretary, agrees. "Even ordinary opinions can be judged or taken out of context. On top of that, constant scrolling creates a kind of mental fog, especially for us Gen Z, who are already juggling career pressures and information overload," she adds.

Akanksha says that her close friend has been following the 'posting zero' lifestyle since 2022. "No updates, no posts, but I've never felt disconnected from her," she adds. "My brother also quit posting and now uses social platforms only for learning or professional growth, which only told me that social media should add value, and not drain it," Akanksha explains.

For Gen Z, the spaces to go to now are platforms where sharing conversations and not posting for social validation matter. And hence, for this generation, spaces like Discord, Snapchat, WhatsApp, and Reddit are preferable, observes Anantha.

Inchara Bharadwaj (19), Bengaluru-based engineering student, agrees. While she does have social media accounts, she never posts because of privacy concerns. Then, there's also the fear of cyber stalking, she adds. The same goes for her friends — even when some of them post, it is only to document their art or interests, never personal stuff, Inchara adds. Her thoughts find an echo in Akanksha's words. "Privacy is becoming valuable again," the company secretary says.

"Gen Z prefers space over stage," says Anantha. He says this actually harks back to the early social media era of Yahoo Chat and Orkut, where conversations actually led to connections. The 19-year-old engineering student also says that Discord is a platform she and her peers use for conversations and communication.

Need for authenticity

As Ishaan explains, "what started with self-expression and sharing with friends has turned into 'keeping up with everybody'. There's a massive pressure on presenting an image on social media that's fun, artistic and trendy. I feel that when that pressure began to cross a threshold, people decided that it's better to not post than post in an inauthentic manner." Even though they are present on social media, observing and interacting, they are increasingly private — this need for authenticity has driven them to move to "private accounts" with "close friends" so they can be themselves, he adds. Ishaan continues to be active on Instagram, posting stories — "not of myself but what I am seeing — places, cafes, etc."

> A reason social media posts have started to feel inauthentic is also that the platforms prefer creator posts. There are an estimated 50 million creators generating content for 5 billion users.

More creators, but where's the spark?

A reason social media posts have started to feel inauthentic is also that the platforms prefer creator posts. There are an estimated 50 million creators generating content for five billion social media users worldwide, according to insights from Deloitte. Authenticity and spontaneity can be hard to find in overwhelmingly curated spaces, where creators are jostling for attention.

Author Cory Doctorow, known for his coinage, 'enshittifcation', which describes the "decay of online platforms", writes in his book on the same term, "If you're old enough to remember the early excitement about the coming digital age, you'll recall how enthusiastic about the prospect of disintermediation — that is, cutting out the middlemen." He points out that today, the very platforms seem to be dialling down on "quantum of content from the people you choose to follow" and instead focus on boosted content and ads.

"Feeds are crowded with highly curated lives, ads, and strangers — and fewer updates from people we actually know," observes Akanksha. "I've already started posting less. I used to share more often, but now I post only when something genuinely meaningful happens. I even took a detox without uninstalling anything because I wanted to break the habit consciously. Surprisingly, it improved my focus and productivity. Silence online started feeling like clarity, not absence," she adds.

The need for authenticity is what Anantha highlights in his post on X, where he calls for a "zero likes movement." Anantha writes, "If social media is a noisy marketplace where everyone's shouting to be heard, what happens when you whisper? Or better yet, when you speak in a language only a few people understand? The Zero Likes approach isn't about creating bad content. It's about creating content so niche, so deliberately unmarketable, so refreshingly honest that it repels the algorithm like garlic repels vampires." He adds: "The beauty lies in the liberation: no trending hashtags to chase, influencer aesthetics to mimic, no comment sections to moderate."

No wonder then that Gen Z is finding ways to be their true selves, steering clear of "the tyranny of the metric", as Anantha puts it. And thus, posting zero.

Does a ban work?

In a first, Australia has recently banned teenagers under 16 from social media, announcing that the time had come to "take back control" from tech giants. The Australian government has noted that such measures were needed to protect children from "predatory algorithms" pushing violence and cyberbullying. A November 2025 study that came out in JAMA Network Open has found that reducing social media consumption even for one week can reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression and insomnia among young adults.

Analog bags are the new trend

If you are wondering what analog bags are, they are now, ironically, a TikTok trend that focuses on offline interests and hobbies. An analog bag is just a fancy term for what most of us have always relied on – a good old tote bag. It could have journals, books, knitting needles or paint brushes to name a few, to encourage you to stay away from digital devices, and instead develop interests and hobbies away from the phone and the Internet. While it seems like just another social media trend for engagement initially, it may be symbolic of a change that's emerging – a gradual return to at least some aspects of the 'analog' way of life.

MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

An English grave beneath a Kolkata sky

When my Kolkata-Bengaluru flight was cancelled, leaving me stranded in the city for 36 hours, a friend suggested I visit the South Park Street Cemetery. 'Though it is located in the very heart of Kolkata, many people are unaware of it,' he said, giving me its coordinates. On a nippy morning, I found myself standing in front of a tall gate that seemed to guard a different world; very old graves of every conceivable size and shape, half-hidden among plants and shrubs beneath a canopy of towering trees.

A plaque attached to the gate informs that this cemetery was opened in August 1767 in what was marshy forest land. While John Wood, a writer in the Customs House, was the first person to be buried here, the last burial took place in 1830. Today, tall structures loom over the eight-acre burial ground, but its high brick compound wall preserves an island of tranquillity in the chaos of modern Kolkata. Among the prominent figures resting here, the plaque notes, are the Indologist Sir William Jones and the poet Henry Louis Derozio.

A view of the South Park Street cemetery in Kolkata.

As a student of literature, I had loved the poems of Derozio, the first poet of Indian writing in English. He, who died at a young age of 22, was a teacher, reformer, and mentor to his students. His restored grave stands dignified, crowned by a bust that captures his youthful intensity. But it was another grave that fuelled my interest, Rose Aylmer's. At 17, Rose began a passionate affair with the 22-year-old poet William Landor. Scandalised, her parents shipped her off to the then Calcutta in 1799, hoping distance would kill the romance. Instead, cholera killed Rose. She was only 20. When news of her death reached Landor, he poured his grief into his famous elegy Rose Aylmer, which is inscribed on her grave. Rose's grave has a pylon on a square plinth and looks like a flower from a distance.

Walking deeper into the cemetery, I discovered yet another thread connecting to Landor. His close friend Charles Dickens named his second son William Landor in the poet's honour. Young William joined the army and came to Calcutta to serve the Company, only to die here in 1841, also at 22. William's grave stands as a silent testament to how many young lives the subcontinent claimed.

The cemetery's most striking monument belongs to Sir William Jones (1746-94), a multi-linguist scholar. While working as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Bengal in 1783, he became enamoured by Indian literature and culture. He translated many ancient Sanskrit texts into English and brought out the affinity between Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin. His majestic white grave has been restored by the Asiatic Society, which he founded.

A special mention needs to be made about the grave of Maj Gen Charles Stuart. This East India Company Army officer embraced Hindu culture and was hence nicknamed 'Hindoo' Stuart. His grave reflects his adopted faith — complete with gopurams and Hindu iconography.

This huge necropolis has over 1,600 graves. Though the graves of soldiers are found in abundance, there are also graves of scholars and bureaucrats, merchants and mendicants, botanists and cattle breeders, printers and silversmiths. It is heartbreaking to find a large number of graves of young children and women. Whether the harsh Indian climate proved too much for British constitutions, or whether contagious diseases claimed them, these stones tell of families torn apart far from home.

Architecturally, the cemetery is an important example of colonial-era design dominated by Gothic-style tombs and monuments, but enriched with Greek, Egyptian, and Indo-Saracenic flourishes. In places, you can spot distinctly Hindu and Islamic influences, creating a unique fusion.

These silent stones spoke eloquently of the complex, often painful story of two worlds colliding and, sometimes, creating something unexpectedly beautiful. What began as a way to kill time became one of the most memorable days of my travels.

D V GURUPRASAD

FEEDBACK
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ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

From Punjab to Kabul via Kashmir and Kargil, this memoir by a veteran journalist is also a stark reflection on India's pockmarked history, writes K V Prasad

Bylines, bullets and bearing witness

The author gets a rare peek into the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke. Seen here are destroyed structures at a government complex in Muridke during the 'Operation Sindoor' strikes in May this year. (AFP FILE PIC)

At first instance, the title may lead the reader to an impression that the book in hand is a work of fiction. Yet, as the saying goes, truth is stranger than fiction, and this is what makes it an interesting read.

Spanning 400 pages and comprising a dozen chapters, this gripping narrative recounts the travails of a journalist who witnessed the turn of violent events that have pockmarked Indian history over the last four decades. Added in each of these events are candid observations by the author on the underlying factors behind the conflict, many of which remain unaddressed.

Organised chronologically as events that unfolded during the journalist's voyage as a correspondent tasked to report on them for reputed media organisations, the book takes the reader through a journey beginning with militancy taking root in Punjab in the 1980s; in Jammu and Kashmir from the 1990s onwards; the Ayodhya Movement and the Babri Masjid developments; and the Kargil War. Interaction with an underworld don and meeting dreaded militants of J&K are some of the domestic events the author recounts.

Dexterously woven alongside are travels to Pakistan, a visit to Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for a rare peep into the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke, a place that was the target of Indian jets during 'Operation Sindoor'; a sojourn to war-torn Afghanistan under the Taliban towards the late 1990s; and, while on a scholarship in the UK, a freelance undercover assignment to work on the modus operandi of how agents operated the 'donkey route', a slang to facilitate illegal immigration, which till date remains a problem for countries across Europe and the United States.

Journalism today has increasingly found acceptance as a gender-neutral profession. The prejudices faced by pioneers who charted a course to join newsrooms in the 1960s have been worn down over the decades, although they can be seen popping up even now. The author does recall how the situation worked sometimes in her favour and at times against her.

Reminiscences of the latter could not have been starker than in the episode of her travel to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in 1996. At a Minister's press conference, she, along with other women reporters, was asked to get up from the seats around the conference table and stand at the end of the hall, with firm instructions that asking questions would deprive them of even a place in the room.

Having reported from different conflict zones—Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and from the frontlines during the Kargil War—the author draws upon her published reports across publications, including interactions with key players. These have been juxtaposed with the march of history and contemporary developments during the last decade, and in the process offer her impressions on the current state of affairs.

With the benefit of hindsight, is the country better placed, and have the policy planners moved forward, drawing lessons from the experiences, are some of the questions the author attempts to look at.

Her journey as an enterprising and enthusiastic field person tasked to report from conflict zones is the core around which the book has been carved out. The life-threatening situations journalists face in areas where bullets are flying around, or the atmosphere of distrust is thick, are the challenges professionals have to endure.

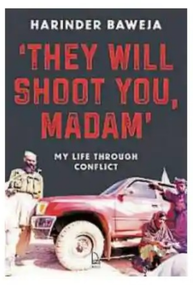
For a journalist who entered the profession in the 1980s, when turbulence began in Punjab, and through the era when Mandal-Kamandal politics, or the deep and violent unrest in J&K was in full play during the 1990s, the difficult nature of relations with Pakistan, leading to the Kargil War at the turn of the century and onwards, the author has been in the thick of action. The reviewer can relate to these for being a contemporary traveller in the profession and having been, intermittently, at some of these hotspots.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution that can be taught in J-schools yet, but in these episodes, the author makes the reader live through experiences. The underlying message is how neutrality of the profession becomes a shield, and of course, providence at times comes to the rescue.

Inherent in the book are two central lessons for any aspiring journalist, currently distracted by easy and open access to social media. One, there can be no substitute for being on the ground. The 'on-the-spot' experience cannot be replicated by watching it from faraway newsrooms on mobile screens. The second, and more important, is the careful accumulation of trusted sources, who are the lifeline for journalists.

For every other reader, the book offers a concise rendition of events over these decades with appropriate reproduction of interviews with politicians and personalities associated with these. Journalists, as the author mentioned, are students of history, or also known as those writing its first draft; the book takes a holistic view and commentary on it through a rear-view. As for the title, it is for the reader to figure out where it is buried. No denouement here.

The reviewer is a senior journalist based in Delhi.



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Harinder Baweja,
Roli, pp 440, Rs 695

THE HERITAGE SHELF

When languages touch faith

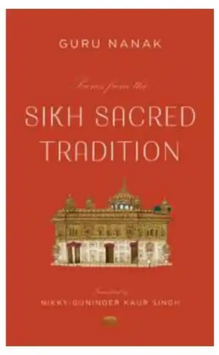
Despite their differences, medieval Punjabi and modern English can complement and even gently embrace each other, discovers NG Kaur Singh

Translating Sikh scripture for the Murty Classical Library series has given me a chance to reflect upon multifarious texts and enjoy the diverse patterns of our shared humanity.

Beginning with Guru Nanak's Japuji, the Guru Granth Sahib is the core of Sikh ethics, philosophy, and aesthetics; the volume draped in silks and brocades presides at all public and private ceremonies. This is literally the body of the Gurus. To translate this sacrosanct text is indeed a daunting task. To compound matters, the source material is stylistically epigrammatic: without conjunctions and prepositions, the text creates hermeneutic complications.

Growing up in a Sikh home, I naturally absorbed Guru Nanak's sublime poetry. But to translate what echoes in the psyche is a process all its own! When sound and meaning are perfectly fused, what does a translator do? How does one convey the dynamic alliteration, assonance, rhyme, and overall aesthetic efficacy of the simple, sensuous, transcendent melodies? Now, how does a translator transmit the taste from one tongue to another?

Translation is an adventure; we discover the newness of the ever-familiar. But we must discard old intellectual habits with their customary dominant models. The process involves reading the original closely, intimately, and getting a feel for each bit of every lyric. The words must make their entry into the mouth of the translator and move about freely. By viscerally experiencing, the most ordinary words suddenly become extraordinary, full of mystery, and their unique power rebounds fluently with its own sound and sense. Translation ultimately is a deeply creative process. It is a sort of letting go so that the transparency of the original strikes back.



The first Guru's vision of the infinite ikkoankar, the One encompassing all beings and things, is foundational to the Sikh religion. Transcending languages, cultures, and religions, Guru Nanak's primary numeral One, with its soaring geometric arc, is a universal modality. It is important to retain the Oneness of the numeral One, and I would say the dynamic verb "Be-ing" (recommended by the feminist theologian Mary Daly) works quite well as an English equivalent.

In comparison, its standard translation "There is one One God" imposes a monotheistic patriarchal God with "lordly" associations, distorting the multiplicity and poly-imagination of Guru Nanak's all-inclusive infinite numeral One. In just a short composition, the Guru perceives the singular One as the bride in her wedding dress, and also as the groom on the nuptial bed... as the fisherman, the fish, the waters, the trap, the weight holding the net, as well as the lost ruby swallowed by the fish (GGS:23)! Male and female are balanced in his theological imaginary, and nothing in the cosmos is deemed too low for the divine to sparkle through. I follow German philosopher Walter Benjamin's model of interlinear translation: the two languages are set literally parallel, and so they come face to face as equals. Prejudices and hegemonies of 'colonial' English are thus less likely to seep in. Only by staying close to the original and following its movements, rhythms, and syntax does Punjabi verse lend itself well to English.

In fact, when we search for a genuinely reciprocal relationship, English materialises as an immensely rich language that touches Punjabi in many tender ways. In spite of their differences, medieval Punjabi and modern English can affirm each other, voice each other, and even tenderly embrace each other. It was paramount for me to convey the wondrous joy of Nanakian verse. His Punjabi phrases—*vari vari javan / ghol ghumai*—picture him going round and round in joyous cognition of the borderless One. Though his circular motions can pose problems for his translators and English speakers, they record a natural bodily reflex of his insuppressible joy (mani cao); the deeper those beautiful disclosures of that One strike, the more he spins ecstatically.

Guru Nanak's tiny phrases open up conduits of freedom, gratitude, and love; here is the dance of the stars and planets, the whirl of electrons and protons, the ebb and tide of life, the flow of the infinite One in every finite self. An intersection of the timeless words with precise moments, the translator's task must remain forever incomplete.

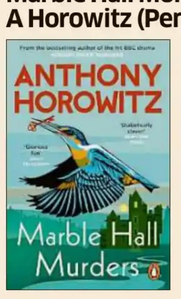
The author is a Crawford Family Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at Colby College, USA.

The Heritage Shelf *is a monthly column from the Murty Classical Library of India, published by Harvard University Press, presenting India's greatest literary works and the enduring traditions that shaped them.*

MOODBOARD

What happens when mystery gets inviting? You get to snuggle up with cosy mysteries, that's what happens! Here are three, perfect for the season:

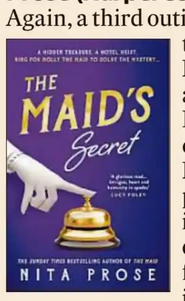
Marble Hall Murders by A Horowitz (Penguin, 2025):



This is the third Susan Ryeland mystery, and like before, it cleverly blends fiction and reality as editor-detective Susan untangles a decades-old poisoning case inextricably connected with a manuscript she is editing. Horowitz knows how to keep his readers guessing while throwing in witticisms and red herrings at them. The characters are relatable, too.

The Maid's Secret by Nita Prose (HarperCollins, 2025):

Again, a third outing, this time in the Molly the Maid series. An art heist at the Regency Grand coincides with Molly's wedding plans. Thrown in are a long-lost diary, an artefact or two and intrigue in the most unlikely of places. There's a lot of charming humour, too, that fans of Molly have come to expect. Quite the perfect Christmas curl-up.



Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping by Jesse Q Sutanto (HarperCollins/2025):

Vera Wong returns as well with her signature wit and amateur sleuthing. This time, she is investigating the death of an influencer, no less, who has connections with her own family. This is the second book in the series, and like the first one that became an international bestseller, this too has its share of offbeat suspects, unconventional sleuthing and a lot of heart.

Mood Board *is a column that presents thematic lists of books on hot-button topics.*

THAT ONE BOOK

A ghost story without ghosts

The real subject of this campus novel is male loneliness, and what makes the writing unusual is the author's observations, says Saudha Kasim

Set in Oxford, the novel explores the messy personal lives of the academe. Seen here is the Bridge of Sighs, a famous Oxford landmark.

The majority of novels set in and around universities tend to concern themselves with the lives of students. Even the ones where the faculty are the protagonists tend to include members of the student body, usually as objects of desire and infatuation.

What sets Javier Marías' novel, All Souls (translated into English from the original Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa), apart is the fact that students barely make an appearance in the story. Maybe that's because his unnamed narrator, a Spanish translator, is reflecting on his two-year-long lecturing gig at Oxford some time previously as a period when he barely did any work: "...my duties in the city of Oxford were minimal, a fact that often made me feel I was playing a purely decorative role here."

Realising he'd have to put in a little more effort, he dons his black robe and gets to class, where the students treat him "with an excessive degree of respect and an even greater degree of indifference." The texts he teaches are chosen by his English colleagues and are of an obscure vernacular with which he's unfamiliar. He naturally, when put on the spot by enquiring students about the roots of certain words, invents "wild etymologies on the spot" that are taken as gospel by both students and the Oxford dons. So the narrator is a bit of an unscrupulous and not particularly dedicated teacher. When he's not (barely) teaching, he roams around Oxford, attends high table dinners, embarks on an affair with another member of the faculty, and spies on his colleagues. It turns out that "Adultery is hard work"—especially in a place where most dons have a reputation for being dreadful gossips. While our narrator tries to conceal the relationship as best he can, his lover Clare Bayes doesn't have the same kind of scruples and is barely bothered.

It is at a hilariously chaotic high table supper that he first meets Clare—he's trying to escape an obese young economist named Halliwell who's trapped him in a conversation about the unique 18th-century cider tax that existed in England. Stressed out by the social conventions that prevent him from escaping the clutches of Halliwell or "fulminating against him (in Spanish)", our distressed narrator chooses to make direct eye contact with Clare, and the first seeds of their relationship are planted.

Their doomed love might be central to the novel, and it does seem like every other extramarital affair that lasts till its expiry date. Still, Marías' real subject here is male loneliness, and what makes All Souls exceptional in this regard is the author's gift for observation.

I don't think I have read as poignant a passage about how one's garbage reflects one's life anywhere else: "When you're alone, when you live alone and live, moreover, in a foreign country, you take more notice than usual of the rubbish bin, because at times it may be the only thing with which you maintain a constant, no, more than that, an ongoing relationship."

The narrator's friendship with two other colleagues is also threaded through All Souls—men given over to the life of academe, but with deeply messy personal lives. There's an authenticity to this story that could only be told by someone who's lived the experience—Marías himself was a visiting lecturer at Oxford in the early 80s. The original Spanish version came out in 1989. All Souls is not an easy read, not least because the story itself loops back and forth in time, and the long sentences demand your close attention to what Marías is revealing about his cast of characters.

Those characters are the souls of the title, the ghosts who haunt the narrator now that he's left behind Oxford and his friends there. A cosy campus novel this is not—and though humour occasionally bubbles to the surface, All Souls reveals in its final pages what it's actually been all along: a ghost story. Not a conventional one—it's the kind of ghost story that is less about the horror of the dead and more about the refusal of memories to lie still.

That One Book *is a monthly column that does exactly what it says—it takes up one great classic and tells you why it is (still) great. The author is a writer and communications professional. She blogs at saudha.substack.com*

READ OF THE WEEK

Our obsession with land is the driving force behind human history. It has sparked revolutions and fuelled economic booms as well as financial crises. Land is the world's oldest and most important asset, and it governs the course of our lives more than any other form of wealth. But this immense power is also what makes it so dangerous.

In The Land Trap, *The Economist*'s Wall Street editor Mike Bird reveals a sweeping, global history that shows how fortunes have been built, or destroyed, all on the bedrock of land. It has become the linchpin of the world's banking system, and it affects everything from soaring housing prices to geopolitical tensions. From the speculative land grabs of colonial America to China's modern-day real estate crisis, this gripping narrative shows how the economics of land can make and break families, businesses, and even entire nations. This is the book for anyone who wants to see beyond markets and money to the hidden game being played out on the ground beneath our feet.

Mike Bird is Asia business and finance editor for *The Economist*, writing about financial markets, economic development and major corporations across the continent.

From the daughter who may not see her mother as a person with her own needs, to a mother who is typecast as 'Devi', the relationship between the two is not all roses and sunshine, writes Arundhati Ghosh

Of mothers and daughters

TIES AND KNOTS

This has been a season of mothers. But while Arundhati Roy's *Mother Mary Comes to Me* unveiled around the world, I have had a rough time getting some daughters to write about their mothers for an edited volume in Bangla. "I cannot do this while she is still around," explained one writer in unexpected edginess. "I am sorry," said simply, another. Idolised, worshipped, immortalised — mothers are stuff of legends. Brave and unvanquished, stories of their unconditional love are aplenty. But I did not want those. As a daughter I live the reality of a complex relationship with Ma which is joyous yet fraught with predicaments. Our values, choices in life and manifestations of emotions diverge wildly, as does our ability to accommodate those differences. Among my friends with their mothers and Ma's friends with their daughters, I witness as much discord and conflict as I do empathy and sisterhood. So I wanted the invited writers to share stories that complicate the supposed bonhomie of the mother-daughter relationship — and realised how overwhelming it is for most of us.

Motherhood stereotypes

While it works brilliantly for patriarchy to burden the mother with boundless and unqualified responsibilities, the everyday mother struggles. With keeping her home afloat, her employers satisfied, her children safe, and the world generally happy — she is a tired mess of nerves on most days. Often her only option is to play into the 'sacrificing mother' stereotype to survive a severely dysfunctional system loaded heavily against her. Unfortunately, this makes it impossible for children to see their mothers as human — with limited abilities, time and energy. In communities where she is equated to the Devi, it escalates pressure, inflates expectations, and deepens misery. Daughters, who are constantly measured against this 'greatness' of their mothers, grow up resenting this seemingly irrefutable fate and the impending failures. But ironically they also feel responsible — a nemesis to their mother's destiny — obliged to make up for all the injustices done to their mothers. These relationships mired in years of emotional blackmail and the tyranny of compensatory appeasement leave incurable wounds on both lives — difficult to write about.

"I didn't like my mother using lipstick", a friend had once confessed, "She looked slutty". Children are often unable to reconcile with the sexuality of their parents, but a daughter's reaction to her mother's expression of desire is at best denial and at worst violence.

There is a particular phase in life when the daughter enters her youth, nervous with excitement at the onset of spring, and a mother leaves hers with a sense of regret and the anxiety of the winter ahead. In that terrible twilight, I have seen mothers and daughters become each other's cruelest rivals, fierce competitors for attention and affection. This is heartbreaking to write about — unless the mother is much older and the daughter wiser still, and some form of reparation has taken place.

FEEDBACK
Have something to say? Send your feedback and suggestions to arufeedback @gmail.com

Feeling 'unmothered'

And then there are also those with no experience of a mother's love — not because they had no 'mother' but because their mothers were incapable, unavailable, or simply did not want to be mothers.

"I can't write about the scars of feeling totally un-mothered," said another potential writer, adding, "I have spent too much money in therapy to open wounds again." Memories of mothers can carry experiences of abuse and feelings of abandonment.

Where motherhood's sanctity is indisputable, narratives of being destroyed by mothers are unspeakable secrets.

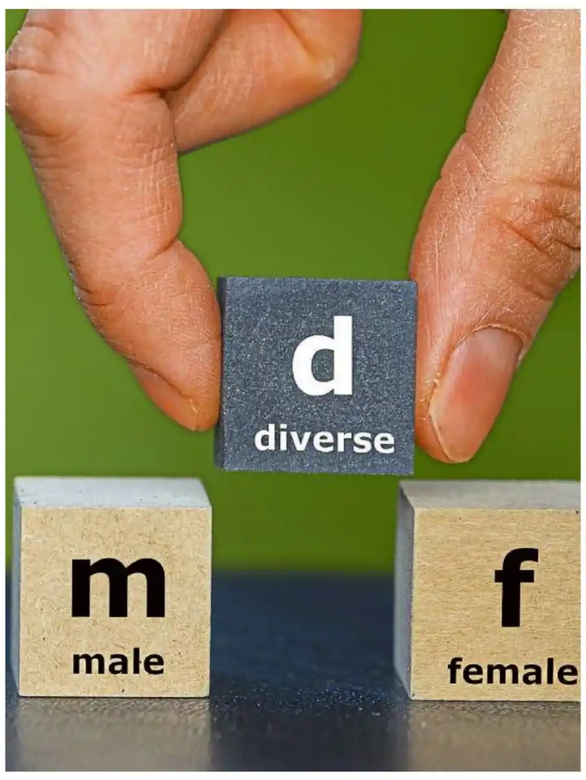
But often women have no role in deciding to be a mother. Those unable medically are judged with stigma, blame and shame as incomplete women, even inauspicious. But those who don't want to be mothers even after society doggedly embeds the desire for motherhood deep in their hearts are treated more severely. They are labelled selfish, lacking the very essence of womanhood. Viewed not as a matter of will and ability but duty and obligation, this destiny of motherhood is endured by women accompanied by confusion, often regret, and they may become inaccessible, distant, hard mothers.

If only the glorification of motherhood could be restrained, making space for agency of women and mindful consideration for motherhood, we may yet have more fulfilling relationships.

But Mary Oliver wrote in her poem, Oxygen, "...It is/ your life, which is so close/ to my own that I would not know/ when to drop the knife of separation...".

So as Ma ages and her vulnerabilities become more acute, we come closer in our mutual need to be needed. The aging body has no room to hide anger, anxiety, hurt. I can see her vividly now as I also watch reluctantly how inevitable similarities creep into me. Both of us struggle to renew our efforts at truce, our practice of compassion. On some days we fail but on others we survive. And the mother figure remains for her daughter as uncomfortable as truth and just as inescapable.

(This column navigates the various worlds of entangled relationships attempting to celebrate, cope with, and reimagine the meanings of our connections. The author is a writer, cultural practitioner, social activist, and traveller. 'All Our Loves: Journeys with Polyamory in India' is her first book in English, published by Aleph in 2025.)



DECODED

The trouble with cisnormativity

It was a decade ago that the Oxford English Dictionary added the word 'cisgender' to its growing lis of words, and defining it as "designating a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds to his or her sex at birth." Cis is a prefix that traces its origin to Latin, and means "on this side of" or "on the same side" as opposed to 'trans' which means 'across' or "on the other side."

Cisnormativity refers to the assumption that an individual's cisgender identity is the preferred or 'normal' one. The word was first used in an article that was published in a journal pertaining to AIDS care in 2009.

Cisnormativity is commonly observed in areas like healthcare, where systems and language are both built for a cisgender identity, and can invalidate those who don't identify as cisgender. Cisnormative practices may often be seen in administrative systems as well, where there are checkboxes that only identify male or female, for example. Cisgender actors playing characters who identify as trans is another practice in cinema, especially Hollywood, that has often been the subject of debate. Some of the arguments focus on tokenism and missed chances for trans actors. The counter arguments revolve around creative expression.

Using gender-neutral language (for instance, seeking preferred pronouns, or using words like partner) is one way of pushing back against cisnormative behaviour.

Seeking inclusive spaces and practices (for example, using non cisgender checkboxes in forms or in data collection during surveys) may help as well.

Savitha Karthik

*(**Decoded** demystifies gender concepts and breaks them down into easy-to-understand language.)*

Teja Lele visits the Austrian capital, and is spellbound by the city's festive sights, from its first recorded X'mas market dating back to the 13th century to the charming smaller spaces where the locals shop

Fairy lights, FROSTY NIGHTS

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Few cities do Christmas quite like Vienna. Come December, Austria's capital turns into a living snow globe: Baroque palaces are dusted in frost, carols drift through Gothic spires and city squares, and the air is scented with roasted chestnuts and glühwein (mulled wine).

Vienna's first recorded Christmas market dates to 1298, when Albrecht I granted citizens the right to hold a December fair. Over seven centuries later, that tradition has not only endured but evolved into an art form.

At Rathausplatz

The Christkindlmarkt at Rathausplatz, framed by the neo-Gothic spires of City Hall, remains its radiant heart. Nearly 150 wooden chalets shimmer beneath a canopy of fairy lights, selling everything from glass ornaments and carved nativity sets to steaming mugs of glühwein and sugary lebkuchen hearts. The towering Christmas tree, strung with thousands of lights, gleams like a beacon at the centre. "It's irrelevant what your age is; the Christmas illuminations never fail to add sparkle to the everyday after they're switched on, on November 15," says Barbara Vrdlovec, a born-and-bred Viennese guide with a passion for art and culture.

The market at Rathausplatz. PHOTOS COURTESY: WIEN TOURISMUS

Bursting with character

But for many locals, the smaller markets hold the real magic. Beyond the grand trio, Rathausplatz, Schönbrunn, and St Stephen's, Vrdlovec lists hers favourites: "There's Spittelberg in the 7th district, Türkenschanzpark in the 19th, Karlsplatz, Am Hof, Freyung, Belvedere Palace, and so many more. Every market has its own character despite the lights and festive fervour that unite them all."

The Spittelberg Christmas Market, tucked into narrow cobbled lanes, feels like a secret, artisanal village. The Schönbrunn Palace market radiates imperial splendour; even the stalls are painted yellow to echo the palace walls. By contrast, St Stephen's Cathedral dazzles with Gothic grandeur; its sharp arches and dark stone playing up dramatically against the lights.

Christmas market, Spittelberg.

"These markets aren't just places to shop," Vrdlovec says. "Each tells a story about tradition, neighbourhood life, and craftsmanship." The Art Advent Market at Karlsplatz champions sustainability: every product is handmade, and the food stalls serve organic, locally sourced dishes in eco-friendly packaging. The Belvedere Palace market offers one of Vienna's most enchanting sights, with its baroque façade and twinkling lights.

Busy cultural calendar

Beyond the markets, Vienna's cultural calendar gleams through December. The Vienna Boys' Choir performs Advent concerts in the Hofburg Chapel while Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker entrances at the State Opera. The Musikverein hosts the New Year's Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic, which is seen by millions worldwide on TV and streaming platforms.

Even the coffeehouses, central to Viennese life, seem to glow brighter. At Café Central, once frequented by Sigmund Freud, marble tables gleam beneath chandeliers as tuxedoed waiters serve sachertorte and apfelstrudel. Demel, the royal confectioner said to have been favoured by Empress Elisabeth, fills its window displays with marzipan figures and intricately iced cookies.

Vienna's grand hotels also transform into elegant sanctuaries this season. The historic Anantara Palais Hansen Vienna, built by architect Theophil Hansen in 1873 and restored to grandeur, is adorned with lavish décor and four Christmas trees, including a striking four-metre centrepiece in Theo's Lounge & Bar.

The hotel's culinary calendar adds to the celebration: indulgent Advent brunches each Sunday at Brasserie Sophie, culminating in a six-course Christmas Eve dinner and a celebratory Christmas Day brunch. Situated along the Ringstrasse, the palace places guests just a short stroll from three of Vienna's most beloved Christmas, including the Christkindlmarkt at Rathausplatz.

Stately hotels like Hotel Sacher and Hotel Imperial hosts special Christmas events. Many properties arrange private market tours or carriage rides through the Innere Stadt, echoing Vienna's 19th-century elegance.

And yet, it's often the quieter moments that define the season: listening to a street violinist near St Stephen's, watching snow settle along the Danube Canal, or wrapping your hands around a mug of coffee as the church bells toll the hour.

RAUL DIAS

Strasbourg's magical spell

One doesn't need to be blessed with a heightened olfactory sense to realise that the air in Strasbourg smells like Yuletide should! Think spiced wine, roasting chestnuts and the faint sweetness of bredele biscuits. Standing before the soaring pink sandstone of the Notre-Dame Cathedral, I watch fairy lights shimmer off the cobbles and understand why this city in north-eastern France calls itself the 'Capital of Christmas'.

Dating back to 1570, Strasbourg's Christkindelsmärik is said to be the oldest Christmas market in Europe. What began as a modest fair outside the cathedral has grown into a vast celebration stretching across the city's UNESCO-listed old town. More than 300 wooden chalets now spread their festive glow over squares and bridges, each corner dedicated to a different slice of Alsatian life.

Noël nights

At Place Broglie, the beating heart of the market, I wander between stalls brimming with handmade ornaments, embroidered linens, and wooden toys carved by local artisans. I sip on vin chaud—warm spiced wine served in cheerful mugs—and nibble on tarte flambée, a thin, crisp Alsatian flatbread slathered with cream, onions, and smoky bacon. Every bite, every sip, tastes of centuries-old tradition. Strasbourg's Christmas spirit lies in its details. The half-timbered houses of the Grande Île are decked with garlands and glowing stars, turning the medieval quarter into a real-life Advent calendar. Each shop front competes to outdo the next with whimsical displays—wreaths, angels, and miniature winter scenes framed by frosted glass. Even the air feels painted in festive hues.

The entrance to the city centre all decked up.

Gingerbread cookies at the Christmas market.

Locals call their city 'la capitale de Noël', and they mean it. The Alsatians treat Christmas as both a craft and a calling. I stop at a stall selling delicate glass baubles, each hand-painted by an artist who's been practising her family trade for three generations. Nearby, a baker offers samples of mannala. These are little brioche bread figures made in honour of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus), who, legend says, still visits children here on December 6.

The market isn't confined to one square, it's a constellation of festive "villages." In Place Kléber, the city's immense Christmas tree towers above the crowd, glittering with gold ornaments and stars. Beneath it, charities sell handcrafted gifts, reminding visitors of Strasbourg's long-standing tradition of giving. Place Gutenberg hosts international artisans, while Place du Château transforms into an open-air art gallery with light shows projected onto the cathedral's façade.

Everywhere I turn, music fills the night. Choirs harmonising in courtyards, brass bands echoing through narrow lanes. Even the River Ill reflects the magic, its waters mirroring the twinkle of lights strung across bridges and balconies. Strasbourg, at Christmas, feels less like a city and more like a storybook brought to life.

As I cradle my final cup of vin chaud, I learn that the market's name—Christkindelsmärik—comes from "Christkindel," or "Christ Child," the traditional gift-bringer of Alsace before Santa Claus took over. Somehow, it fits.

Strasbourg's Christmas isn't loud or commercial; it's tender, nostalgic, and luminous. A veritable old-world embrace that warms you from the inside out.

Festive fare on your mind? Look no further than South Indian specials like achappams, coconut stews, pork indad, teepi gavvalu and munthiri kothu, among others, writes Deepa Natarajan Lobo

A very southern affair

Teepi gavvalu, a traditional festive preparation.

Achappam or rose cookies are a must-have during the festive season in Kerala.

Munthiri kothu, a unique festive delicacy.

Caramel pudding is one of the favourite desserts made for Christmas lunch.

Across South India, Christmas is a month-long affair. Snacks like kalkals (aka kulkuls), rose cookies, and marzipan are readied and packed in advance. Each household follows heirloom recipes rooted in family traditions. Preparations for the plum cake start months in advance, as the longer the fruits marinate in the boozy mix, the more decadent the cake.

Lunch on Christmas day is typical non-vegetarian fare consisting of coconut-based stews, spicy seafood gravies, pork or beef curries, roast chicken or turkey and rice-based versions (biryanis, appams, neer dosas and ghee rice to name a few). Then there is rich plum cake topped with a light custard.

CHRISTMAS SPREAD

A meaty affair

For Tresa Francis, founder of Bengaluru restaurant Coracle, known for its Kerala Syrian Christian and South Indian food, Christmas is a "lot of cake, be it fruit or plum cake. We also make rose cookies, kalkals, banana halwa or maida halwa. Aval vilayichathu, made of thin beaten rice tossed in jaggery and coconut, is also a season's special.

"Growing up in Calicut (now Kozhikode), celebrations revolved around dishes like duck, crab or pork roast. Appams and vattayappams were a must too. There was also Continental fare like baked chicken, shepherd's pies and fruit trifle," she reminisces.

Mangaluru cuisine

In Karnataka, Mangaluru stands out on the Christmas culinary map with pork preparations like bafat, sorpotel and indad being favourites.

The fiery dishes are polished off with soft, slightly sweet sannas or spongy neer dosas. The spread also comprises chicken, mutton and seafood with ghee roasts or coconutty roce curries. Kuswar, a traditional Mangalurean Christmas snack box with treats like kulkuls, neureos, bolinhas, marzipan, and plum cake, is put together for family and friends.

Ashish D'abreo, who hails from the region and is co-founder of the cafe Maverick & Farmer, has been on a quest to perfect pork indad, which holds a special place in his family's traditions.

"The smoky flavour of indad comes from cooking over firewood during large family gatherings, difficult to replicate at home," Ashish explains.

Duck mapas with appam. (PICS COURTESY: CORACLE, BENGALURU)

Pork indad by Ashish D'abreo.

"Growing up, I never liked its subtle sweetness from jaggery but now I appreciate the traditional techniques involved in its making."

In Tamil Nadu, Christmas sweets take on distinctive forms. Food historian Rakesh Raghunathan points to munthiri kothu as one of the most characteristic festive sweets in the state. "It's made with green moong dal, jaggery, coconut and cardamom," he explains, adding, "this filling is dipped in rice and urad dal batter, somewhat like dosa batter, and fried." What makes it visually striking is its shape. "Three small balls are held together to form a triangle, resembling a cluster of cashews. That's why it's called munthiri kothu—munthiri meaning cashew, and kothu meaning a group," points out Rakesh.

Other sweets include somas (or somasi), with crescent-shaped fried shells and sweet fillings of roasted rava or gram; adhirasam, rich with jaggery and rice flour; and achappams or rose cookies. Rakesh also speaks of vivika, a steamed rice cake with coconut similar to Kerala's vattayappam or Goa's sannas, served with mutton curry by certain communities.

In Andhra Pradesh, tangy gongura mutton curry, zesty Andhra biryani and crisp garelus (medu vadas) anchor the savoury spread, while sweets like shell-shaped teepi gavvalu soaked in jaggery syrup and golden poornalus filled with rice flour and jaggery and served with ghee add a traditional touch. These sit comfortably with plum cakes and Anglo Indian baking influences. Christmas in Anglo Indian homes begins with fruits steeped in dark rum for the cake and spice tins refreshed with nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves. "Christmas lunch is always grand," says Karen Martin, Deputy MarCom Manager at The Lalit Ashok Bengaluru, who loves cooking Anglo Indian dishes passed down from her grandmother.

"We have roast chicken and bread sauce/gravy, a big pot of ball curry, pepper beef or mutton stew, and yellow rice with whole spices. We have sautéed vegetables, potato chops, cutlets and soft white bread with butter. There's also salted meat, meat sausages, pineapple cheese skewers, pudding with a brandy flambé, roasted potatoes, rum punch and doldol (black rice halwa)," she adds.

ORIGIN STORY

Baked in history: India's first plum cake

SUSHEELA NAIR

Cakes came to Kerala in 1883, when Murdoch Brown, an early British planter (who ran a cinnamon plantation in Anjarakandy in the Malabar region) craving for a plum cake at X'mas time asked Mambally Bapu, the owner of Mambally Royal Biscuit Factory in Tellicherry (now Thalassery) to taste the cake he brought from England and recreate it.

Plum cake. (PICS COURTESY: MAMBALLY ROYAL BISCUIT FACTORY)

One of the pioneering bakeries in the country, it made history when Bapu baked arguably, India's first plum cake that led to Thalassery's unofficial title, Land of three C's – cakes, cricket and circus. Though the original bakery is not there, we stopped by the current bakery in a mall to have wood-fired gourmet handcrafted plum cake, crispy, scrumptious barley biscuits, etc.

Brown explained to Bapu the baking process and handed over an assorted bunch of ingredients like dates, raisins, dry fruits, etc and suggested the use of French brandy from erstwhile Mayyazhi (Mahe) for the X'mas cake. But Bapu decided to give a 'desi' twist to the cake. He procured the mould from a blacksmith in Dharmadam, and sourced spices like cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Instead of using imported French brandy, Bapu used a locally brewed cashew-apple liquor (a form of local arrack/country liquor) enhanced with locally available kadalipazham (a type of local bananas). Swapping imported brandy for a local liquor made from cashew apples and bananas, the result was a unique plum cake made entirely from local ingredients. Delighted with the result, Brown certified it as the best cake he had ever tasted and ordered a dozen more. Thus began the Indian tradition of X'mas cakes.

The factory where plum cake was first baked.

Traditional baking

"We have consciously retained the traditional elements. The dry and candied fruits are slow-stewed in bell-metal urulis (traditional wide-mouthed, shallow cooking vessel) which allows for gentle, even heating and deep flavour development and baking in wood-fired ovens using coconut shells — so that the cake still carries the lineage of the 1883 masterpiece," explained Renuka Bala, the fifth generation custodian, of the factory.

While the recipes have changed with the changing times due to the regulatory requirements and availability of ingredients, the Mamballys have not compromised on the quality.

While Bapu brewed his own cashew-apple arrack, it is no longer legally feasible for a commercial food business today. Hence arrack is not brewed in-house due to legal bottlenecks.

*(**Origin Story** attempts to satiate your curiosity about the history of an ingredient or dish.)*

Wellness

The air you breathe

Struggling with a blocked nose, drowsy eyes and a nagging heaviness? You may have chronic sinusitis, no longer a one-off ENT problem but an everyday burden for those living in polluted cities, writes Dr Manjunath PH

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

Walk through any metro in winter—Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad—and you'll notice a familiar pattern. People stepping out with blocked noses, drowsy eyes, headaches that refuse to fade, and that nagging heaviness around the cheeks. What earlier felt like a temporary cold now lingers for weeks, sometimes even months. Many young adults think it's just the weather or a "dust allergy," but what we're actually seeing is a steady rise in chronic sinusitis linked directly to worsening air quality.

Blame PM2.5

Chronic sinusitis is no longer a once-in-a-while ENT problem. For many in polluted cities, it has quietly become an everyday health burden that affects sleep, productivity, concentration, and even mood.

The biggest culprit is something you can't fully escape: PM2.5 particles, the ultra-fine pollutants that float through city air long after smog alerts fade.

Here's what young Indians need to understand about this growing problem. PM2.5 isn't just "pollution dust"—it behaves like needle-sized irritants inside your sinuses. Most people imagine pollution as large, dusty particles you can see. PM2.5 is different. These microscopic particles slip deep into the nasal passages and lodge themselves in the sinus lining.

When these tiny pollutants settle inside the sinus passages, the lining slowly starts to get irritated and inflamed. Over time, the natural mucus flow begins to slow, the sinus walls remain swollen instead of clearing out as they should, and the body's immune system stays on high alert, as if it's constantly fighting something in the background.

This slow, smouldering irritation creates the perfect conditions for persistent blockage, facial pain, and that constant feeling of heaviness or pressure in the head.

Not just 'stuffy nose'

Swollen sinuses make nasal breathing harder, which means young people unknowingly:

- Switch to mouth breathing at night
- Wake up multiple times
- Experience shallow, poor-quality sleep
- Feel fatigued or foggy the next day

Many patients say, "I sleep eight hours but still wake up tired." When the nose stays blocked, oxygen flow drops through the night, disturbing sleep cycles and leaving concentration, immunity, and overall energy lower than they should be. Over time, it becomes a loop—clogged sinuses worsen sleep, and poor sleep makes inflammation harder to heal.

Polluted air makes the nose more vulnerable to recurrent infections. Healthy sinuses have a smart cleaning system. But prolonged PM2.5 exposure slows these movements down. When that happens, mucus becomes thick, stagnant, and infection-prone.

This is why so many young people experience:

- Repeated "colds"
- Sinus infections needing multiple antibiotic courses
- Sore throats that come and go
- Post-nasal drip that triggers cough or bad breath

Polluted air weakens the very defenses that normally prevent them.

Problem of indoor pollution

Many people in our cities spend most of their time inside—offices, cafés, gyms, or compact homes with limited airflow. The air in these spaces often carries smoke, settled dust, chemical fumes from cleaners, kitchen vapours, and pollutants trapped in AC filters. So even when people stay indoors on bad-air days, their sinuses still wind up dealing with the irritants hiding inside the house.

Urban air pollution is reshaping respiratory health in young Indians. Chronic sinusitis is one of the earliest signs our bodies give when the air becomes too harsh.

The good news is that with timely attention, steady nasal care, and a few everyday habit changes, you can keep these issues from turning into long-term problems.

If your sinus issues are becoming a constant companion—affecting sleep, concentration, or daily comfort—it's worth getting evaluated. Your sinuses can heal, but they need breathing space to do so.

(The author is consultant - interventional pulmonologist at a Bengaluru hospital.)

SMALL STEPS; BIG DIFFERENCE

- **Start with nasal hygiene:** Using a simple saline rinse once or twice a day can clear the irritants and help your sinuses breathe a little easier.
- **Support your indoor air:** Keeping rooms aired out, cleaning AC filters, and adding a few indoor plants can ease the irritants in the air.
- **Use pollution masks wisely:** A well-fitted N95 mask on high AQI days can cut exposure significantly.
- **Don't ignore sleep quality:** If nasal blockage affects your nights, you may need tailored treatment.
- **Know when to see a specialist:** If symptoms persist beyond 12 weeks, it's no longer "just a cold."

House plants act as air purifiers.

From light to darkness

PREETI VERMA LAL

In a dense unfrequented forest of Karnataka, the night could not have been darker. Ink black night with the moon coffined in the clouds. My charcoal-coloured car screeched in front of a barbed fence guarding a jagged dirt track.

"Switch off your phone. Stow away the torchlight," Narasimha Bhatt, who owns two homestays in Karnataka's Joida taluka gently instructed. "Now, close your eyes for a minute." A minute later Bhatt urged, "Open your eyes. Start walking." My feet fumbled in the darkness but a few more steps and gradually, the walk became easier, steadier.

That dirt track lies desolate by the Kali river where the world is so silent one could hear one's own heartbeat. I stood there merely staring at the faint silhouette of the Kali river, soaking in the soul-pervading silence and darkness. No thoughts. Just quietude.

Bhatt is not a therapist but he has been walking in the dark frequently. He says it helps him sleep better and find peace in a chaotic world. In this world of gadgets, neon lights, noise and sleeplessness, dark therapy is a boon. India is a sleepless nation — it is the second most sleep-deprived country after Japan. According to an annual survey by an Indian home and sleep solutions company, nearly 87 per cent of Indians use their phones before bed, thereby contributing to the country's abject sleep problem.

Benefits of dark therapy

Dark therapy helps reset circadian rhythms and treat conditions like insomnia, bipolar disorder, and depression. Recent studies have found that individuals who sleep in darkness have better insulin sensitivity and a lower risk of type 2 diabetes. Dark therapy also regulates the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, resulting in restorative sleep. Because darkness stimulates the production of melatonin, the immune function is enhanced; darkness also leads to better balance of hormones like serotonin and dopamine, key for well-being.

According to *ScienceDirect*, dark therapy is used as a mood stabiliser in bipolar disorder, roughly the converse of light therapy for depression. Though dark therapy is being hailed as a boon, consult an expert first so that spending extensive periods of time in complete darkness does not negatively impact one's sleep or mental state.

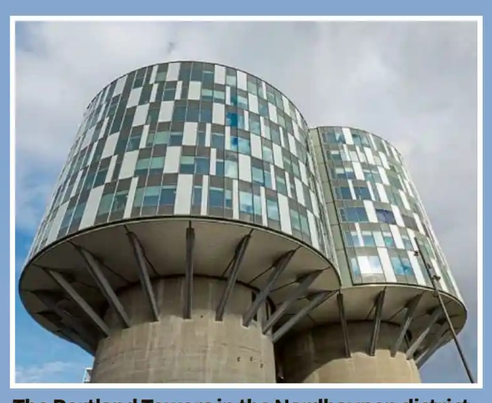
Keep in mind

- Do not use dark therapy during daytime.
- By 6 pm, put on blue light blocking glasses. If you cannot wear them this early, wear at least two hours before sleep.
- Sleep in a pitch dark room. Wear a sleep mask to cut all light.
- Invest in blackout curtains. Put a rolled towel in the door gap to plug all light.
- At least 30 minutes before getting into bed, stow away your electronic devices.
- Switch from bright overhead lights to dim lighting ahead of bedtime.
- Stick to a consistent sleep/wake up time.

EYE ON DESIGN

Copenhagen demonstrates how thoughtful design, sustainability, and human-centred planning can greatly improve quality of life, says Kalpana Sunder

A city shaped by aesthetics



The Portland Towers in the Nordhavnen district.

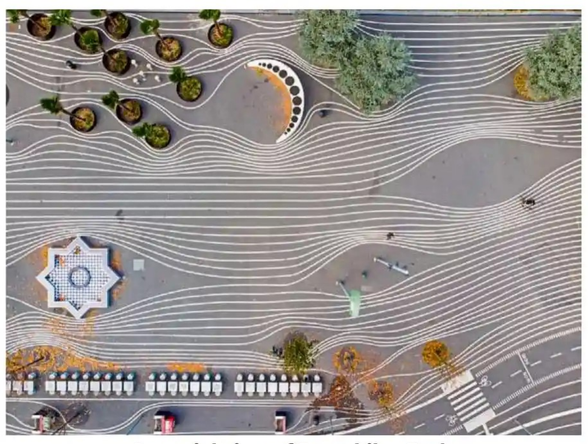
The Cirkelbroen (Circle Bridge), inspired by sailing ship masts, and designed by the Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson.

A residential building in Copenhagen.

Copenhagen isn't just a city; it feels like a living design experiment that you can walk, cycle, and swim through every day. What makes it special is how design here isn't locked away in galleries or reserved for the elite; it's woven into the fabric of daily life. Whether you're gliding along a bike lane, stopping for coffee, or checking into a hotel, you're constantly immersed in spaces that balance beauty, function, and a deep respect for human comfort.

The Danish design ethos is unmistakable: simplicity, natural materials, and a close relationship with light and nature. Wood, neutral tones, and uncluttered forms dominate, while daylight is treated almost like a building material in its own right. It's not about showing off; it's about creating environments that feel good to inhabit. This quiet confidence is what makes Copenhagen's design language so compelling.

Movement through the city tells the story best. Bike lanes aren't an afterthought; they're the arteries of Copenhagen, making cycling the most natural way to get around. Public harbour baths transform the city's edges into communal living rooms, where locals swim in water so clean it feels miraculous for a capital city. Even the smallest neighbourhood cafés are thoughtfully designed, with interiors that encourage you to slow down and linger. Together, these elements form a blueprint for how a city can function beautifully without sacrificing utility.



An aerial view of Superkilen Park.

Copenhagen's design legacy is legendary. Arne Jacobsen's furniture remains timeless, and Poul Henningsen's lighting designs are still synonymous with Danish interiors. In contemporary architecture, Bjarke Ingels and his studio BIG push boundaries with bold, sustainable projects that are reshaping not only Copenhagen but also cities worldwide. There's a palpable sense of continuity here — heritage and innovation celebrated side by side.

Even the city's bridges embody this philosophy. They are not merely functional crossings but sculptural gestures across water. Olafur Eliasson's Circle Bridge, with its mast-like forms, invites pause and reflection. The Cykelslangen, or "Bicycle Snake," is a vivid orange bike lane that curls playfully above the harbour, turning a daily commute into a moment of delight. Lille Langebro is sleek and minimal, folding open like an origami creation to let boats pass. Each bridge shows how design can elevate even the most utilitarian structures. Staying in Copenhagen is part of the design journey. Hotels embrace the city's ethos in distinct ways. At the quirky 25hours Hotel Paper Island, the maritime history of the harbour is woven into playful interiors featuring sailcloth, maps, and bold colours. The vibe is eclectic and whimsical, yet firmly rooted in its contemporary waterfront setting. Hotel Ottilia, by contrast, places guests inside the historic Carlsberg brewery. Industrial elements — concrete beams and factory windows — are softened by warm Scandinavian lighting and furniture, creating a seamless fusion of history and comfort.

For those curious about how design shapes society on a larger scale, the Danish Architecture Centre (DAC) is essential. Its exhibitions explore urban planning, sustainability, and the future of cities, encouraging visitors to think like architects. The experience is interactive: you don't simply observe design, you're invited to rethink how cities might look and feel.

Shopping for design in Copenhagen also feels purposeful. Hay House on Østergade resembles a temple of Scandinavian living, with airy showrooms arranged as complete lifestyle vignettes. It demonstrates how furniture, textiles, and lighting come together in everyday settings, rather than existing as isolated objects.

The city's neighbourhoods offer the most authentic sense of design in action. Vesterbro has evolved from gritty industrial roots into a creative hub, where studios, concept stores, and galleries coexist with cafés and craft breweries. In Nørrebro, Superkilen Park is a playful urban landscape celebrating inclusivity, incorporating more than 100 objects from 50 cultures into a joyful public space.

What's remarkable about Copenhagen's design culture is that it invites participation, not passive admiration. Rent a bike and experience how effortlessly the city accommodates cyclists. Swim in the harbour baths and see what's possible when water is treated as a public asset. Perhaps the city's most radical design project isn't a building or bridge, but its commitment to becoming carbon-neutral by 2025. That ambition shapes everything: waste-to-energy plants double as ski slopes, solar panels become architectural features, and new developments prioritise community spaces and green roofs.

From the curve of a bridge to the placement of a bike rack, from café interiors to public parks, design works quietly but powerfully to improve daily life. It nurtures people, strengthens communities, and shows that beauty and functionality can, indeed, go hand in hand.

POT POURRI

A thousand squares of cheer and love

At the Museum of Goa, a Christmas tree crocheted by women across the state is bringing craft and community together, writes Gargi Guha

Christmas in Goa has always had its own timbre. By the time 'season' unfurls in October, beaches fill with sun-seekers fleeing European winters. It is a time of warmth and celebration. As heady aromas of plum cakes and bebincas sweeten the air, strains of evening carols drift through the vaddos. In paddy fields, nativity scenes appear like gentle apparitions, often lit by flickering lanterns and decorated with coconut fronds and barn animals sculpted in clay.

Far from the beaches and fields, however, a very special Christmas tree claims pride of position this year. Just across the threshold of the Museum of Goa (MOG), an 18-foot Christmas tree rises — not from pine and tinsel, but from nearly a thousand hand-crocheted squares. Each eight-inch piece, crafted by a collective of 25 women from across Goa, has been lovingly stitched onto a metal framework.

The story of this tree is one of serendipity and community. It was conceived by the newly formed Crochet Collective Goa, a group that came together in August, united by their shared love for yarn and craft.

"The Christmas tree is a result of wanting to build a community around crochet and bring crochet from the craft space into the art space. With this end in mind, 25 women across Goa got together and formed the Crochet Collective Goa. We hope to work on many more projects together because we see the smiles the tree brings to people's faces and because we ourselves enjoyed every bit of the process," says Sharmila Majumdar on behalf of the Crochet Collective Goa.

The tree is a result of collective intent. Standing 18 feet tall from base to star, with a two-foot topper and an eight-foot diameter, it rests on a steel framework donated by a young civil engineer.

What truly differentiates this tree, however, is not just its size but its texture. "We didn't want a flat, carpet effect. We wanted dimension," Sharmila explains. To achieve this, the team mounted a mesh over the metal skeleton to support each square. These were then hand-stitched, one by one, directly onto the frame, creating a surface that feels sculptural and richly textured.

The project emerged almost accidentally. In August, crocheters across Goa —bankers, teachers, retirees, home-based entrepreneurs, women in their 30s through their 60s — responded to a simple WhatsApp call put out by crocheter Sheena Pereira. "We didn't know the scale, we didn't know the venue, we didn't even know each other," Sheena laughs. "But we knew we wanted to make something together."

Alongside Sheena were Sophie, who helmed strategy, and Sharmila Majumdar, a lifelong knitter who turned to crochet just five years ago. "Crochet is calming, almost spiritual," Sharmila says. "In this day and age, if you're not doing something with your hands, you're doomscrolling. Crochet keeps you grounded; it keeps you sane."

The assembling of the tree took place at Sharmila's home, much like a giant Lego project, where the metal frame stood waiting. "That was the first time many of us stood in the same room," Sharmila recalls. "To watch these anonymous squares suddenly find their place on the tree — it was deeply emotional."

The crochet Christmas tree stands tall.

Their work found its perfect home when the Museum of Goa invited the collective to exhibit the piece as part of its milestone 10th anniversary exhibition, Festivals of Goa.

MOG's exhibition celebrates nearly 50 micro-festivals of Goa, from well-known feasts to lesser-known village rituals shaped by layers of Hindu, Catholic, and regional traditions. Goa, after all, does not offer a single culture but a mosaic.

"As we celebrate MOG's 10th anniversary through Festivals of Goa, the crochet Christmas tree adds immense value to this milestone. Christmas is one of Goa's most cherished festivals, embraced by people of all religions and backgrounds. The tree therefore becomes a symbol not just of festivity, but of Goa's syncretic spirit — where traditions meld, evolve, and bring people together," says Sharda Kerkar, Director of the Museum of Goa.

Across India, crochet has quietly surged back to life. Lockdowns in 2020 nudged people toward handwork, while celebrity athletes like swimmer Tom Daley, casually knitting and crocheting between games, helped uphold crafting as a mindful practice.

The tree remains on view until January 18, 2026, at the Museum of Goa, after which the squares may be repurposed into blankets and sold to raise funds for local orphanages.

DAB HAND

The many lives of a giant surge

Dispersed across museums and markets, and endlessly rediscovered, Hokusai's Great Wave stands as a testament to how a painting becomes a cultural icon, writes Pushkar V

Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai's The Great Wave off Kanagawa is Japan's most famous painting: a storm of blue and claw-like waves that the whole world seems to recognise at a glance. Like the Mona Lisa for France, Las Meninas for Spain, or Raja Ravi Varma's Shakuntala for India, it has become more than a masterpiece; a single image that quietly carries a nation's imagination.

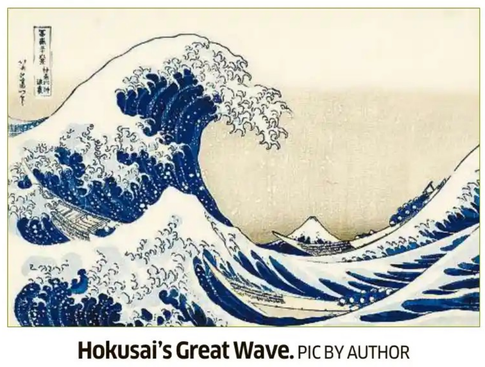
At the end of November 2025, that familiar wave rose again. This time it surged through a Hong Kong auction room, where Sotheby's offered a rare early impression from Hokusai's Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji series. The print, titled "Under the Wave off Kanagawa," sold for approximately $2.8 million, setting a new auction record for this image. It originated from the Okada Museum of Art in Hakone, a small town renowned for its picturesque views of the iconic Mount Fuji in Japan.

Many waves, many homes

Unlike a single painting such as the Mona Lisa, The Great Wave off Kanagawa was printed many times from carved woodblocks, meaning there is no lone "original." Museums from New York to London and Tokyo hold prized impressions, each slightly different in colour and sharpness, some with deeper Prussian blue, others softened by time. At the Shimane Art Museum in Matsue (pictured), one copy belongs to a Japanese art collection shown only in rotation.

Curators at the Shimane Art Museum say that Hokusai works are brought out for short public runs, about four weeks a year, and then returned to dark storage so they can rest between showings, because light can quickly fade these delicate papers. The Sumida Hokusai Museum in Tokyo follows a similar rhythm, using rotating exhibitions and replicas to tell his story while carefully rationing the exposure of fragile originals.

This means there is no single shrine to The Great Wave; instead, its "many originals" live scattered around the globe, appearing and disappearing like the tides in the painting.



Hokusai's Great Wave. PIC BY AUTHOR

Indian professor's suitcase

Jitendra V Singh, an India-born management professor working in the United States, spent years building a set of Hokusai's Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji, buying prints that had travelled across continents. In 2024, Christie's sold his complete set in New York for about $3.56 million, at the time the highest price ever achieved for Hokusai prints as a group. For a while, an Indian professor living in America was the guardian of Fuji, keeping the mountain safe in boxes and portfolios far from Japan.

Hokusai's restless life

Katsushika Hokusai was born in 1760 in Edo, now Tokyo, and died in 1849, after a working life that stretched nearly 90 years. He changed his artistic name more than 30 times and moved house over 90 times, chasing commissions, escaping debts, and starting over again and again. His style belonged to ukiyo-e, the "pictures of the floating world," but he pushed beyond actors and courtesans to landscapes, storms, ghosts, and everyday workers.

His innovation lay in combining traditional Japanese block printing with European ideas of perspective, allowing him to create compositions that felt modern and dynamic. His prints travelled west and went on to influence artists such as Monet and Degas; Vincent van Gogh admired Hokusai's work.

'Hokusai As An Old Man', self-portrait by the artist.

Hokusai's Fuji series, begun around 1830, promised 36 views but eventually grew to 46, with 10 extra designs added after its initial success. The Great Wave is just one of these, placing the sacred mountain as a small, steady triangle beyond the chaos of the sea. Hokusai drew the image, a carver sliced it into blocks, and printers worked the paper and ink, with publishers financing and selling the prints.

The Prussian blue pigment, newly imported to Japan, was deep and vivid, giving the sea and sky their striking colour and helping the prints stand out in the crowded Edo market. The cheap paper and mass printing meant these works were once affordable to common people — closer to posters than luxury treasures. That humble origin makes today's million-dollar prices feel all the more dramatic.

A wave in pop culture

Today, The Great Wave appears on T-shirts, tattoos, the wave emoji, and even on the back of the 1,000-yen banknote. Museums report that younger visitors often recognise the image before they know Hokusai's name, encountering it not through art history books but via anime, memes, and phone wallpapers.

That great curl of water is no longer just a scene. It has become a shared memory. It carries with it the story of an old artist who kept reinventing himself, the mountain he adored, and the worlds he shaped without ever leaving Japan. Hokusai may have lived in a time of isolation, but his creation refuses to stay still. The wave continues to rise endlessly, reminding us that art does not fade. It simply keeps moving, carrying all of us with it.

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